

May 1985

VFW

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

M A G A Z I N E

MEMORIAL DAY, 1985 *T*heir Spirit Soars Like an Eagle in Flight



VFW Magazine
406 West 34th
Kansas City, Mo. 64111
Address Correction requested

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St. Paul, MN
Permit No. 356

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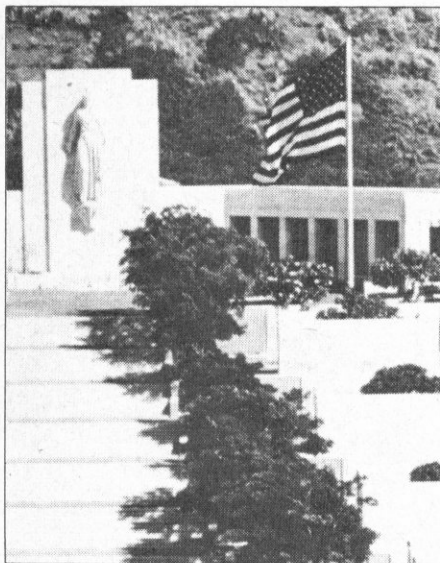
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Official Publication of the
**VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS
OF THE UNITED STATES**

Published Monthly
Except July

**VFW MAGAZINE
EDITORIAL OFFICE**

Address all communications for publication to
The Editor, VFW Magazine,
Broadway at 34th Street,
Kansas City, Mo. 64111.

VFW OBJECTIVES

- TO INSURE THE NATIONAL SECURITY through maximum military strength.
- TO SPEED THE REHABILITATION of the nation's disabled and needy veterans.
- TO ASSIST THE WIDOWS AND ORPHANS, and the dependents of disabled and needy veterans.
- TO PROMOTE AMERICANISM through education in patriotism and constructive service to the communities in which we live.

STAFF

**Publisher & Director
of Publications**
John L. Smith
Director of Public Relations
Wade LaDue
Editor
James K. Anderson
Associate Editor
Warren C. Maus
Production & Design
Steve Keetle
Circulation Manager
Joe L. Ridgley

ADVERTISING DIRECTORS

PABCO REPRESENTATIVES,
9 E. 41st St., New York, N.Y. 10017;
Advertising Representative:
PABCO REPRESENTATIVES,
405 N. Wabash, Suite 2108,
Chicago, Illinois 60601

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POSTMASTER: Forward Form 3575 to
Circulation Department, VFW Magazine,
Broadway at 34th Street, Kansas City, Mo. 64111.

NON-MEMBER SUBSCRIPTIONS

U.S., and its possessions, \$4.00 per year, 40 cents per copy. For subscription in other countries, \$10.00 per year.

Payment of membership dues includes \$1 for a year's subscription to VFW Magazine.

VFW Magazine is available in microfilm.
Write: University Microfilms
300 N. Zeeb Rd.
Ann Arbor, Mich. 48106.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Forward address changes to Circulation Department, VFW Magazine, Broadway at 34th Street, Kansas City, Mo. 64111. Be sure to furnish your old address, also your Post number, when requesting change to new address. To insure accuracy, please clip and enclose your present address as it is stenciled on a recent copy of VFW Magazine.



MEMBER AUDIT BUREAU
OF CIRCULATION

(ISSN 0161-8598)

WASHINGTON WIRE

VETSGRAM

LEGISLATIVE

VFW Testifies Before Senate, House Committees: Recently, VFW representatives told the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee its position on the 1986 Fiscal Year Building program. The need for major construction projects, as well as those not funded, has been justified by the VA and verified by the VFW field representatives whose first duty is to survey VA medical facilities. Medical centers currently judged most in need of construction, replacement or major modernization are at Houston, Texas; Allen Park, Mich.; Mountain Home, Tenn.; Pittsburgh, Pa.; Augusta, Ga.; Gainesville, Fla.; Baltimore, Md.; Palm Beach County, Fla.; Philadelphia, Pa., and Dallas, Texas. This is listed in the government's Fiscal Year 1985-1989 Five-Year Medical Facility Construction Needs Assessment. The reduced construction budget will permit replacement and modernization of hospitals at Houston and Mountain Home. Also proposed is a nursing home care unit, surface parking and a pedestrian bridge at the Philadelphia Medical Center. In addition, the budget provided for nursing home care units at Amarillo, Texas, and Tucson, Ariz.; a replacement domiciliary at Temple, Texas, and a renovation of Building 43 at the Wood, Wis., Medical Center to provide domiciliary beds and related support functions.

VFW opposed downsizing the Houston and Mountain Home replacement hospitals since projected bed sizes are needed and redesigning coupled with inflation creep in the two- to three-year interim could well consume projected cost savings from downsizing.

VFW support was again given for construction of the replacement hospital in Baltimore, first authorized in 1976 and upon which \$8 million has already been spent. Also, VFW urged serious reconsideration and approval of the previously proposed nursing home care unit at the Providence, R.I., Medical Center.

On the VA Home Loan Guaranty Program, the VFW testified that the program is demonstrably one of the most successful and beneficial VA programs available to veterans. Approval of more than 11 million loans to date attests to its great popularity and viability. It is necessary. Approximately 64% of all VA guaranteed home loans are made without a downpayment. This is not generally possible with conventional loans. Thus many veterans choose this type of financing precisely for this benefit.

Clearly, a vast number of veterans would not be in their own homes today if it were not for this

program. The VFW believes the Loan Guaranty Program should continue to enjoy the full support of Congress and the Administration.

Adverse economic factors have made VA loan foreclosures run at more than 20,000 a year. This has effectively, although the VFW believes only temporarily, caused a long-standing money maker to run at a loss. Even more unfortunately, this situation would seem to have given rise to shortsighted administration proposals that would have a far-reaching and adverse impact on this most valuable veterans program, if implemented.

One would increase the "user's fee" for a VA guaranteed home loan from 1% to 5%. The VFW is adamantly against this proposed excessive and unwarranted increase.

Many of today's two-income families can manage a large monthly mortgage payment, but they have not been able to save enough money to meet the stiff downpayments required by commercial lending institutions. Further, the user's fee is in effect, a downpayment without the benefit of equally reducing the amount to be financed.

The Administration also is proposing to repeal the VA's authority to establish a home loan interest rate. The VFW believes in the event of foreclosure that departing from this policy would be a serious mistake and detrimental to the veteran's best interest. Couple this with elimination of the administered interest rate, which will result in rates equal to conventional rates, veterans with the assets will opt for a conventional loan. The bottom line is that with a 5% fee, the volume of activity will decrease by 25% to 50% thus reducing anticipated revenue. A very valuable and long-standing VA program may well be destroyed. Both the veteran and the nation would bear the sorry consequences.

Before a subcommittee of the House Veterans Affairs Committee, the VFW recommended the Emergency Veterans' Job Training Act not only be extended but liberalized in order to serve more veterans. Citing statistics that substantiate the claim that many Vietnam and Korean veterans are still unemployed, the VFW also asked Congress to reduce the eligibility requirements that a veteran be unemployed to five out of the 20 preceding weeks instead of the 15 jobless weeks out of 20. The VFW also recommended the VA and the Department of Labor be more aggressive in promoting the program and matching employers and veterans.

At the same hearing, the VFW recommended increasing the Veterans Readjustment Appointment (VRA) entry level from GS-9 to GS-11. The VFW did, though, point out to the committee that for the increased entry level to be meaningful, the 14-year

education requirement must be eliminated because most GS-11 positions require a college degree.

To the appropriate subcommittee of the House Ways and Means Committee with respect to extending the Targeted Job Tax Credit (TJTC) Program, the VFW supported extension of the termination date and other improvements to stimulate further employer participation. Included were increasing the tax credit to \$10,000 and adding to the target group those age 55 and older.

* * *

Proposed Resolutions: During June, Departments will hold their state conventions when proposed resolutions will be acted upon and those passed will be considered on the floor of the 86th National Convention in August. Use of specific bill numbers should be avoided if at all possible. Place emphasis on the desired action.

SECURITY

Reagan's Science Adviser's Views on SDI:

Although he had to go to Europe instead of speaking to the National Security Committee meeting at the Mid-Winter Conference, Dr. George A. Keyworth's remarks on the Strategic Defense Initiative appear in the May issue of the VFW Washington Action Reporter, available from your Post Commander. Here are highlights. Instead of waiting until Soviet warheads are near their targets, existing technology will let us destroy them as they are rising and still over Soviet soil. This boost-phase defense enables us to attack the missile when it is most vulnerable, rather than the warheads. Lasers or particle beams travel at the speed of light, attack simultaneously and repeatedly from thousands of miles away. Only a handful would be needed to put whole Soviet ICBM fleet at risk. Beams can be transmitted through atmosphere without losing their power. Thus large lasers can be put on the ground, easily maintained and protected, with simple mirrors in space to reflect rapid laser pulses and direct them to their distant targets. A defense in depth allows us to pick off ICBMs that might have gotten through continuously during mid-course period.

President Reagan disagrees with argument that mutual assured destruction can be taken for granted into future. Technological advances work against this. Soviets' huge ICBM land-based arsenal has put at risk U.S. land-based weapons in case of a Soviet pre-emptive strike. Submarines may be vulnerable, too. Possibility of pre-emptive strike has been most destabilizing factor in arms race. It confers perception of advantage on side that strikes first. Sta-

bility demands disadvantage for aggressor, so we have been moving in the wrong direction.

SDI's initial implementation negates first strike option, advances stability, because aggressor could not be sure opponent would not be able to retaliate. As defense against ICBMs, SDI is important first step since ICBMs make up 70% of Soviet strategic force that has six times payload of U.S. ICBM fleet. Soviets insist this advantage must be maintained. Why? Ours is retaliatory deterrent; Soviets is preemptive. This difference accounts for little progress in arms reductions over the years. Strategic defense, on the other hand, would destroy military utility of ICBM. SDI forces Soviets to make changes in their fundamental doctrines and strategies and their weapons systems negotiable.

SERVICE

VA Probing Kickbacks: VA has been investigating kickbacks in the mobile home industry, consisting of 150 manufacturers and 7,000 dealers. Kickbacks are from manufacturers to dealers, increasing costs to veterans. In 13 years, VA has guaranteed more than 90,000 loans to veterans for mobile homes, paid more than 3,000 claims on defaulted loans. Operation Protect Veterans, says VA Inspector Gen. Frank Sato, has identified 30 home manufacturers and is examining records of 75. Justice Department has announced one company will pay a \$50,000 fine and \$450,000 to the VA to settle a government civil claim. Civil recoveries from overpayments will be credited to the veteran's account.

New Job Training Projects: Two VA pilot projects to encourage job training for some veterans receiving VA total disability compensation or need-based pensions awarded Feb. 1, 1985 - Jan. 31, 1989, have been announced. Each veteran-pensioner under 50 is required to undergo a job evaluation; over 50s may take part voluntarily. If achievement of vocational goal after rehabilitation is feasible, veteran may choose individually designed vocational training and employment services. Pension may be ended by employment, but health care will be protected.

In second project, veterans awarded total disability on basis of unemployability on or after Feb. 1, 1985, are required to take part in VA vocational rehabilitation unless job goal is not feasible. During this period rating may not be reduced if veteran finds work unless job continues for 12 or more consecutive months. These pilot projects are part of the Veterans Benefits Improvements Act of 1984.

'We Won't Stand Idly By'



By Billy Ray Cameron
VFW Commander-in-Chief

Commander-in-Chief Cameron appeared before a joint hearing of the House and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committees on March 12 to present VFW legislative recommendations during the annual Mid-Winter Conference.

SEN. MURKOWSKI I CONGRATULATE you upon your election as chairman of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee. To the new members of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, welcome; and we look forward to working closely with you.

Permit me to commend sincerely all of you for having shepherded through the second session of the 98th Congress legislation fulfilling in whole or in part many of our VFW resolutions and priority goals; in particular, the truly yeoman work you did in hammering out the legislation which became Public Law 98-542, the Veterans' Dioxin and Radiation Exposure Compensation Standards Act.

Although not all we had hoped for, at least the wheels have been set in motion to resolve this vexing issue if pursued with vigor. As a disabled veteran who fought with the Marine Corps in Vietnam, I, along with thousands of others, continue to live under a cloud of uncertainty with respect to our health. For those exposed to radiation, their mental

anguish has lasted four decades.

These legislative initiatives reached fruition only because of the commendable and close working relationships existing between your staff directors and counsels, Anthony J. Principi, Jonathan Steinberg, Mack G. Fleming, Rufus H. Wilson, and their staffs with the Executive Director of our VFW Washington Office, Cooper T. Holt, and our National Legislative Director, Donald H. Schwab, and their staffs.

I would be remiss, indeed, if I did not thank those Senators who testified in support of retaining the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee as a standing committee of the Senate. The nationwide write-in campaign of VFW and Auxiliary members paid off when, on Oct. 4, 1984, the Senate passed S. Res. 139, as amended, fulfilling one of our current priority goals.

Again, my thanks to those of you who wrote to the president and the Secretary of the Treasury regarding the ill-conceived, ill-advised and insensitive proposal to tax compensation payments made to our disabled veterans. I, too, made the views of the VFW clearly known to the President. We know this proposal has been nipped in the bud, but it is reassuring that you members caused to be introduced in both Houses resolutions expressing the sense of Congress that compensation should remain tax exempt.

You will note that our priority legislative goals do not seek the establishment of any new veterans' benefits or entitlements. These goals merely address adequate funding to maintain the integrity of those benefits and entitlements now authorized by law, with but one exception, upgrading to cabinet rank status the position of the Administrator of Veterans Affairs. I have noted the introduction of H.R. 513 by Rep. G.V. Montgomery, for himself, and Rep. John Paul Hammer-schmidt to establish the VA as an executive department. The VFW has asked the chairman of the Committee

on Government Operations to hold early hearings on this legislation and that we be permitted to present our views.

The budget proposed by the President for the VA for the 1986 fiscal year, which begins Oct. 1, 1985, is \$26.7 billion in outlays. This figure represents a decrease of \$82 million from the current fiscal year and is 2.7% of the federal budget of \$973.7 billion in outlays—the lowest percentage of the federal budget in recent history.

This proposed budget represents the VA's further contribution to the Administration's continuing deficit reduction efforts. In reality, however, we of the VFW view it as an unprecedented assault on the VA and its hospital and medical care system sugarcoated by a proposed 4.1% cost-of-living increase in compensation and pension to be effective Dec. 1, 1985. In addition, and unfortunately, in more than one instance, the Administration has resorted to distorted and misleading information to garner support for cuts. For example, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has asserted that the cost of caring for older veterans "...will be as high as \$37 billion annually..." The fact is that the VA publication, "Caring for the Aging Veteran," estimated this cost between \$18 billion and \$22 billion to be largely offset by anticipated reductions in compensation and pension funding. To justify a needs test for treatment of nonservice connected disability, OMB cited twice the VA pension income standard as "currently \$18,828 for a family of four." According to pages 5 to 7 of volume II of the VA Budget, "VA users...are more often not married." Twice the current annual pension rate for a single veteran is \$11,418.

We of the VFW support fiscal responsibility. We also support fairness and spending priorities which do not distort intelligent, time-honored national priorities. Through the budget reconciliation process, the VA and veterans have made a very substantial

Continues on page 8

contribution to deficit reduction. How large a contribution is reflected in the following summary:

Our contribution in the fiscal year 1981 amounted to \$493 million; in 1982, \$446 million; in 1983, \$602 million; in 1984, \$840 million; and in 1985, savings are anticipated in the amount of \$1.69 billion. Added to these amounts a decade of straight-line budgets for the veterans Administration with attendant retrenchment of services must also be considered a significant reduction.

The VFW has historically held that any honorably discharged veteran who served on active duty in our Armed Forces during periods of war and hostility and in need of medical care should be provided that care by the VA. Most unfortunately, and according to its own survey, the VA is presently denying that medical care to over 21,000 veterans each month. This equates to a quarter of a million veterans a year being turned away by the VA. Does the VA know whether these veterans ever receive treatment? Do any of you know what happens to these veterans? Does anyone care? Now, this Administration proposes legislation to deny medical care to most veterans suffering from non-service connected disabilities who are not in receipt of pension or medically indigent by subjecting them to a stringent means test regardless of their age. This is contrary to current law and opposed in the strongest possible terms by the VFW.

The primary function of the VA's hospital and medical care system is to provide care second to none for veterans with service connected disabilities. However, the longstanding intent of Congress to care also for veterans with non-service connected disabilities was clearly enunciated in Public Law 68-242, the World War Veterans' Act, 1924. More recently, Public Law 91-500 made a noteworthy change in that it amended 38 USC 610 by extending eligibility for hospital, nursing home and domiciliary care to "any veteran for a non-service connected disability if such veteran is 65 years of age or older."

To repeal this law and restrict most non-service connected care to veterans on the rapidly diminishing pension roll and those veterans who are medically indigent does not augur well at all for either veterans or the future of the VA's hospital and medical care system.

The retrenchment of Medicare benefits and proportionate increases in necessary Medicare Supplemental Insurance would work a severe financial hardship on many veterans and subject others to the vagaries of the floundering Medicaid system. According to an Aging Brief entitled "The President's 1986 Budget—an Assault on America's Aged and Poor," released Feb. 7, 1985, by the House Select Committee on Aging, "...The impact of a means test on the veteran would be considerable. The added cost to Medicare could be as high as \$600 million annually."

Curtailling the treatment of veterans will create problems for the entire health care system. Such a mandated continuing reduction in patient load

would necessitate reductions in health care personnel, hospital and nursing home care beds and, in the not too distant future, a reduction in facilities and the ability of the VA to be a viable primary backup to the Department of Defense. The framework would then be in place to disenfranchise all non-service connected veterans and contract out care for veterans with service connected disabilities.

The proposed reduction of 8,000 medical care personnel by 1990 would seriously jeopardize the VA's capability to provide quality health care. Furthermore, the targeted 1,900 personnel reductions under the 1% productivity improvement program proposed for 1986 would in itself severely impede VA medical care programs. It should be noted that the VA, which already is operating with a shortage of medical care personnel in excess of 10,000, is operating at 115% productivity. The 1,900 personnel cut would raise it to 117% productivity.

No hospital in the private sector could ever operate at such a high level of productivity over a protracted period without seriously endangering patient care. Such action within the VA could well jeopardize the accreditation of many of its hospitals. In the breath of fresh air department, thank you, Mr. Chairman, for having furnished me a copy of Chairman Boland's letter to the Administrator of Veterans Affairs indicating that his Subcommittee on HUD-Independent Agencies of the House Appropriations Committee will propose that an additional \$80 million be provided to maintain the medical care staffing level at 193,941. I have already written Mr. Boland thanking him for his continuing, strong support of our nation's veterans and his letter appeared in the April issue of the VFW Magazine.

A reduced construction budget will permit replacement and modernization of hospitals at Houston, Texas, and Mountain Home, Tenn.; a clinical addition and nursing home care unit at Philadelphia, plus nursing home care units at Amarillo, Texas; Tucson, Ariz., and domiciliaries at Temple, Texas, and Wood, Wis. Construction,

Sen. Strom Thurmond (S.C.), Rep. John Paul Hammerschmidt (Ark.), Sen. Frank H. Murkowski (Alaska) and Rep. G.V. (Sonny) Montgomery (Miss.) listen to Commander-in-Chief Billy Ray Cameron's presentation.



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however, will be delayed for hospitals at Augusta, Ga.; New York and Philadelphia, with the attendant increased cost and possible recission.

In testimony given to these Committees last month, Dr. Donald L. Custis, whose credentials are impeccable, stated: "It is unlikely that the VA health care system could be dismantled by fiat, but there is clear and

Furthermore, it is suspected veterans with private or public insurance seek VA care only when benefits have expired under their current policies.

Without delving in depth into impediments of this proposal, when Maurice Miller, senior vice president of the Life Insurance Company of Virginia, testified before the Subcommittee on Hospitals on VA Reimbursement for Health Care in Certain Cases, on July 11, 1975, he stated in part:

"Our estimates, in case there is a question on it, that to cover the cost of this, insurance premiums for male insurance will probably jump about 10%."

Most health insurance policies contain an exclusionary clause courts have ruled constitutional and the VA would need to develop and maintain a very elaborate cost-accounting system. Moreover, the VA would need, based upon its own estimates, as many as 2,495 additional FTEs to handle this extra administrative burden, which obviously the Administration has no intention of providing, in addition to the expanded ADP capability which would be required. This situation is further compounded by the additional personnel required to implement the proposed medical care means test and its corresponding workload.

The Administration has proposed consolidating into three "benefit processing and support activities" the adjudication of veterans' claims and the maintenance of claim files. The remainder of the 59 VA Regional Offices would become mere contact points where a veteran could do little more than file a claim since no records would be maintained at these points and adjudication of claims would no longer be accomplished at the state level. President Reagan's fiscal year 1982 budget contained much the same proposal. The VFW opposed it then and we oppose it now.

Reducing VA Regional Offices to satellite or contact points would greatly hinder the ability of our service officers and other representatives to research and present claims at that level since the claim file would not be available to permit the proper and

necessary research.

The claimant's access to a full and fair hearing would be restricted since many who would be able to appear before a board in his or her own state might well be unable to travel perhaps half the distance of our country to make a personal appearance. Hearings that might be held locally would, most likely, be before proxies. All of this represents a serious infringement on the veteran's right to due process which is already violated by the denial to veterans of the right enjoyed by all other citizens—the right of judicial review. The proposed consolidation would greatly impede the adjudication of claims and the initial payment of benefits to which the claimant is entitled.

The VA's loan guaranty program is the most used veteran's benefit under which nearly 12 million veterans have purchased homes. Public Law 97-253 established a user's fee of one-half of 1% on VA home loans effective Oct. 1, 1982, and terminating Sept. 30 of this year. Veterans with service connected disabilities were exempted and the user's fee when collected went to the Treasury, not the Loan Guaranty Revolving Fund. Public Law 98-369 increased the user's fee to 1% until Sept. 30, 1987. Funds presently collected are deposited into the Loan Guaranty Revolving Fund. Now the Administration proposes legislation to increase the user's fee from 1% to 5%. In addition, it would obligate purchasers of VA-owned property who buy on terms (vendee loans) to either pay a 5% fee or pay a 1% fee, make a minimal 5% downpayment and obtain private mortgage insurance. The 5% user's fee could effectively negate the value of a VA loan for veterans, particularly Vietnam veterans. The VFW strongly opposes any user's fee for veterans under the Loan Guaranty Program.

These proposed cuts are in sharp contrast to what we had been led to expect from this Administration. When the President was campaigning for the presidency and addressed our 81st National Convention in August, 1980, his profound, reassuring state-

Continues on page 12



Commander-in-Chief Billy Ray Cameron poses with Chairman G.V. (Sonny) Montgomery, of the House Veterans Affairs Committee (Miss.), before presenting VFW legislative recommendations jointly to the House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committees.

present danger that full implementation of certain of these options would be tantamount to its destruction." Believe me, the VFW will not stand idly by and watch what we have fought for and nurtured over the years destroyed by the President's Office of Management and Budget, social welfare planners or anyone else.

Third-party reimbursement, last proposed in the fiscal year 1981 budget request to save \$315 million per year, has again surfaced in the President's proposed budget but with more modest anticipated savings of \$65 million per year. According to the VA, "...among veterans hospitalized in VA medical facilities, only 55% have some health insurance (including Medicare and Medicaid), while 45% do not."



Commander-in-Chief Billy Ray Cameron is introduced by his Congressman, Rep. Charles O. Whitley (N.C.), at the joint House and Veterans Affairs Committees' hearing on VFW legislative concerns. Left is VFW Executive Director Cooper T. Holt, of the Washington Office.

ments with respect to veterans and our benefits and entitlements were interrupted numerous times by resounding applause and standing ovations. The President said: it is unbelievable "that veterans in need are denied hospital and medical care because of inadequate funding which has closed hospital beds and cut health care within the VA." The party platform at the time contained the following:

"Republicans recognize the very special sacrifice of those who have served in our nation's armed forces. Individual rights and societal values are only as strong as a nation's commitment to defend them. Because of this our country must never forget its appreciation of and obligation to our veterans...

"We will maintain the integrity of the Veterans Administration. We will seek to keep it separate and distinct from other federal agencies as the single agency for the administration of all veterans' programs. In particular we feel it is of vital importance to continue and expand the health programs provided to veterans through the Veterans Administration hospitals. Here we see the need for increased access to care, especially for older veterans.

"We further advocate continued and expanded health care for our Vietnam veterans and consider it vital for the Veterans Administration to continue its program for the rehabilitation of the disabled as well as its job training efforts."

Public Law 98-543, among its other provisions, extended until the end of last month the date veterans must

apply to participate in the Emergency Veterans' Job Training Act as authorized by Public Law 98-77 and, also, the date training must start until Sept. 1, 1985. Those funds appropriated but not yet expended will remain available until Sept. 30, 1987. We of the VFW however, believe this program should be further extended and funded. The targeted veterans are still experiencing employment difficulties and the program is still gaining momentum. Rep. Marvin Leath has introduced H.R. 1122 to amend the Emergency Veterans' Job Training Act of 1983. This legislation would complement one of our priority goals by extending eligibility dates and funding. The bill also would authorize Veterans Readjustment Appointments up to grade GS-11.

The VFW supports veterans' preference and its strict enforcement and opposes any and all attempts to weaken or destroy this benefit. For this reason, we were both shocked and chagrined when H.R. 5799, which was to preclude the total contracting out under the provisions of the Office of Management and Budget's Circular A-76 the positions of guard, elevator operator, messenger and custodian, died in the Senate when the 98th Congress adjourned on Oct. 12, 1984. These jobs were previously reserved for veteran preference eligibles as long preference eligibles were available under the provisions of section 3310, Title V of the United States Code.

Notwithstanding strong opposition by the President's OMB, H.R. 5799 passed the House of Representatives with bipartisan support under suspension of the rules on July 30, 1984.

Communications to the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee and the appropriate subcommittee by my predecessor, Past Commander-in-Chief Clifford G. Olson, Jr., and myself urging early advancement of the legislation were to no avail. Now Rep. Nick Joe Rahall II has introduced, for himself, and a number of cosponsors including you, Chairman Montgomery, and others on the committee H.R. 1132 to protect those veterans' jobs not already contracted out by the General Services Administration. We will pursue early advancement of Rep. Rahall's bill, of course, and solicit all the support possible, particularly on the Senate side where H.R. 5799 languished in the Subcommittee.

Another priority goal supports legislation that would require all eligible male federal service applicants be registered with the Selective Service System and, further, that those not so registered be removed from job consideration until they comply with the law. Sen. Strom Thurmond has introduced S. 235, cosponsored by Sens. Denton, Helms and Symms to prohibit employment in Civil Service positions in the Executive Branch of any individual required to register under the Military Selective Service Act who has not done so. I am proud to associate myself and the VFW with remarks made by Sen. Thurmond upon introduction of S. 235. Specifically, "...While these lawbreakers are presently ineligible for any form of Federal educational assistance or benefits...there are no statutory provisions making them ineligible for employment in a federal executive agency. This is particularly appalling when one considers that the possibility exists that a non-registrant could obtain employment ahead of a veteran."

None of us know what budget cuts Congress will agree to finally. We of the VFW, however, believe the VA and veterans have already made a very substantial contribution to deficit reduction and that the status quo should now be maintained. If members of Congress believe otherwise, let them speak and be counted. As you know, the President proposes, but Congress disposes. ■

Ernie Pyle Bridge

The 40th anniversary of Ernie Pyle's death in the Pacific Theater in April reminded me that we of the 344th Engineer Regiment named the bridge we built across the Rhine River at Mannheim-Ludwigshafen, Germany, in his honor, the Ernie Pyle Memorial Bridge. We were up on the Rhine when we lost our commander-in-chief, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, but we were not in a position yet to name our bridge. Further up the river, another unit beat us to that honor. Meanwhile, word came to us of the loss of Ernie Pyle. Anyone who served overseas will agree his column is the Stars and Stripes was rated tops.—*Guy F. Rodney, 1011 Sterling St., Scranton, Pa. 18508.*

BBC Seeks Vets

The British Broadcasting Corp. seeks individuals in following categories for major television documentary series: U.S.S. Augusta crew who attended religious service aboard the Prince of Wales in August 1941 with President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill; those involved with planning or participating in war games with Red (Britain) or Red-Orange (Britain-Japan) opponent in the 1930s; veterans who returned from England to Milwaukee in 1945; anyone who attended or was involved with the Naval Disarmament Conference in Geneva in 1927, and anyone who joined the British forces prior to the official U.S. entry in WWII.—*Betty Scharf, c/o BBC, 630 Fifth Avenue, Suite 2153, New York, N.Y. 10111.*

Memorial Day

We can also call Memorial Day "Remembrance Day." On this day of remembrance in this blessed land, let us not forget our comrades who gave their lives that we may have our freedom; let us not forget that freedom is our best ally. Let us not complain; we are rich in freedom. Nor shall we forget the widows and children of our brave comrades. On this remembrance day let us not betray our parted comrades who sacrificed for others; let us continue to fight for our freedom.

The last hope on earth is the people of the United States. The act of bravery and dedication of these great men has kept Communism from taking control. Let us remember we are all Americans in a common cause. We are here together as one people under God in remembrance of our comrades who

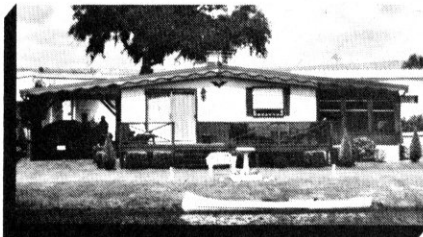
gave us our civil liberties; they let us know that there is no limit to accomplishment.—*Edwin C. Kemp, Star Rte. 1, Box 176, St. Ignace, Mich. 49781.*

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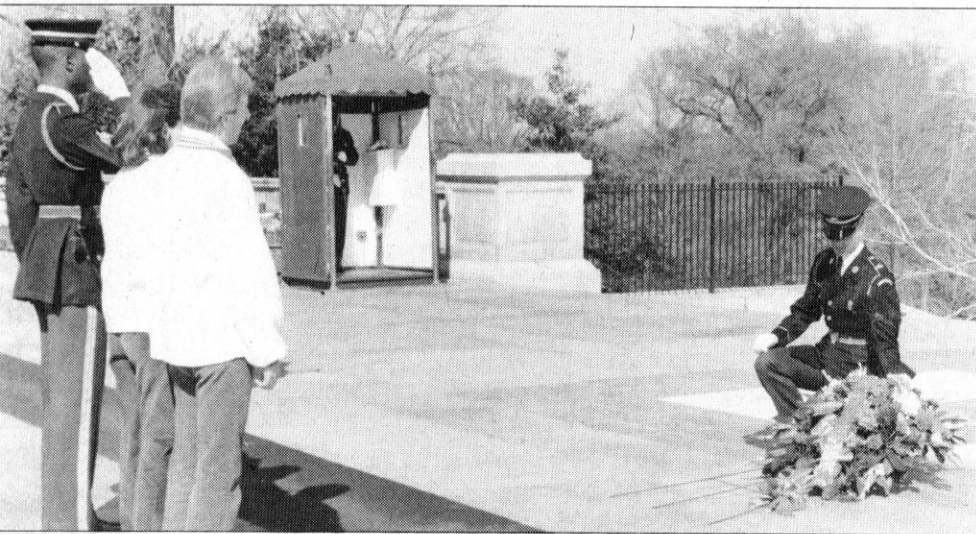
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VOICE WINNERS ON TOUR



Two Department winners in the Voice of Democracy contest take part in wreath-laying ceremonies at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. To the right of the wreath, but not shown, is the resting place of the Vietnam Unknown, laid to rest Memorial Day.

For the 52 department Voice of Democracy Scholarship winners, March 8 through March 13 no doubt will be some of the most memorable days in their lives. Not only did they have the opportunity to see the nation's capital, they were also honored with a brief visit by President Reagan who greeted them in the White House.

Late Friday morning, only hours after many had arrived, the scholarship winners met with the President in the State Dining Room, where he chatted with them about former residents of the White House. He noted that in the early days of the Presidency, the occupants, once their terms of office had expired, often sold the contents of the White House to finance

their trips back home, adding that twentieth century residents fortunately don't have to uphold that early custom.

Most of the Voice of Democracy winners scholarship recipients, 36 girls and 16 boys, arrived on Thursday evening, March 7, to begin a whirlwind of activity, culminating in the announcement of six national scholarship winners at the Congressional Banquet Tuesday evening and the presentation of the winning script by

Kristin Lindholm representing Missouri. (See page 16.)

After an early morning get-together Friday the scholarship winners, accompanied by their chaperones, visited with President Reagan prior to sightseeing at the Old Post Office, now converted into a Galleria of eateries and small shops. That evening, they boarded busses again to be regaled with a performance of the musical *Godspell* at Ford's Theatre.

Saturday was no less exciting. The morning hours they spent at Mount Vernon, home of our nation's first President, George Washington. While there, they placed a wreath at his tomb.

Next stop, the Smithsonian Institution where they toured the museums of their choice for the afternoon. The evening hours were occupied with a performance of *West Side Story* at Harlequin Dinner Theatre.

This particular Sunday was not a day of rest for the scholarship winners. First stop on the itinerary was the Washington Cathedral, followed that afternoon with a visit to Arlington National Cemetery. At the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, they participated in the impressive wreath-laying ceremonies conducted by the Army's 3rd

Infantry Regiment.

They completed their tour of Arlington National Cemetery with visits to the National Memorial Amphitheatre, John F. Kennedy's gravesite and the Iwo Jima Memorial.

Monday was a full day of touring, highlighted by visits to Capitol Hill, the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, the National Archives and the Washington Monument. Monday evening they listened to works by Berlioz, Ravel and Shostakovich performed by the National Symphony at the Kennedy Center.

Tuesday, the scholarship winners journeyed to nearby Baltimore's Inner Harbor and the National Aquarium before preparing for the VFW Congressional Banquet.

At the Banquet, the state winners shared the dais with prominent military and political leaders. The six National Award winners were announced, followed by the first place winner's Presentation of her winning script.

Later in the evening, the group got together one last time for a talent show.

The Voice of Democracy Scholarship Program, in its 38th year, is a well-established program for youth. It has been endorsed by the National and State Association of Broadcasters and has been placed on the Advisory List of National Contests and Activities for the 1984-85 year by the National Association of Secondary School Principals.

The distinguished panel who judged the radio broadcasting scripts of the 53 national finalists and selected the six national winners are:

Harriet Blue, National 4-H Council; David Delgado, National Association of Secondary School Principals; David H. Fiske, director, CBS; Edward O. Fritts, president, National Association of Broadcasters; Past Commander-in-Chief Ray Gallagher; Robert Hynes, NBC; Peter B. Kenney, telecommunications consultant; Stephen J. McCormick, Broadcast Productions and Services, Inc.; Dan McCurry, editor, Stars and Stripes, Washington, D.C.; Paul Myer, director, ABC; Thomas O'Brien, Mutual Broadcasting System; James H. Quello, commissioner, Federal Communications Commission; Past Commander-in-Chief Ray Soden; Larry Taishoff, Broadcasting Magazine; Rep. Robert S. Walker, (Pa.) former Pennsylvania VOD state winner, and Nicholas Zapple, retired member of the Senate Commerce Committee staff. ■

Kristin Lindholm, of Kansas City, Mo., was first place winner of the T.C. Selman \$14,000 college scholarship in the 1985

Voice of Democracy broadcast scriptwriting competition. Her winning essay is published here. She intends to enter either Northwestern University or Bradley University to study speech. The other Selman winners were Lisa C. Swallows, Cookeville, Tenn., second place, \$7,000; Chris Jordan, Smithfield, N.C., third place, \$4,500; Marjorie Scholtz, Pittsburgh, Pa., fourth place, \$3,500; and Scott Wendorf, Raton, N.M., fifth place, \$2,500. Winner of the \$1,000

Frank Tallman scholarship was Ann Schneller, Rapid City, S.D.

'MY PLEDGE TO AMERICA'

One of my most vivid memories of kindergarten is the day when I finally recited the Pledge of Allegiance, by memory, without any mistakes. I was very proud of myself, but my pride stemmed more from my memorization

skills than from my understanding of the significance of making a pledge to my country. I did not realize that a pledge is not a recitation; it is a solemn promise made by a dedicated person who translates the words into his actions. By the time I was mature enough to understand this, I had moved into upper grades, and the school day no longer began with the Pledge of Allegiance. Without that daily requirement, I stopped giving a pledge to my country. For too long, I have taken for granted the priceless opportunities and freedoms that my country has given me, and I have given little in return. Therefore, I need to make a new, unique pledge—my pledge to America.

The members of many organizations pledge themselves to uphold traditions, to work during the present and for the future, and to make a strong commitment to the organizations' welfare. I too decided to make that three-part pledge to America, beginning by pledging to uphold my country's traditions. My rich American heritage began over 200 years ago when the colonists dreamed about shaping America into a country where the power to govern came from the people. Adlai Stevenson, once the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, wrote, "America ... is the first community in which men set out to institutionalize freedom, responsible government, and human equality." Through the efforts of George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln and many others, America became the democratic world leader that she is today. I gladly pledge myself to uphold the

ideals and history of America.

One part of a pledge is upholding the past, but pledges are useless unless they demand present action and future commitments. I pledge to serve my country now and to prepare myself for the future. Although, as a student, I do not vote or pay taxes, I can still support my country through my present actions. I can exercise my constitutional rights by keeping informed about important issues and voicing my opinions by letter or petition to my government representatives. In addition, I can provide important volunteer service for my community. Through service clubs, I have worked for the Salvation Army, Special Olympics and a school for autistic children. By serving the people of America, I am serving America herself. Working for my country now is extremely important, but, as nationally acclaimed inventor Charles Kettering once said, "We should all be concerned about the future because we will have to spend the rest of our lives there." For my generation, preparing for the future is critical, because soon America's future will rest in our hands. We must educate ourselves about our government and our future responsibilities as tax-paying, voting citizens. As an individual, I must also realize my potential so I can make a significant contribution to my country's welfare.

Finally, I pledge myself to make a strong commitment to America. If I do not take my pledge seriously, then it is worthless. Words are easy to write and even easier to say, but acting upon those words is much harder. I cannot pledge myself to America and then put off my service and education until later or completely forget about them. If I do, then I am guilty of apathy, perhaps the greatest threat to democratic America.

Instead of indifference, I want to give my country action. Therefore, I pledge myself to uphold America's traditions, to work during the present and for the future, and to commit myself to fulfilling this solemn promise. My pledge can make a difference in my goals and actions and possibly the goals and actions of others as well. After all, in the words of Henry Emerson Fosdick, "Democracy is based upon the conviction that there are extraordinary possibilities in ordinary people". I intend to unlock some of my extraordinary potential by giving and living my pledge to America.



Dallas Is a Dazzler

When VFW members and their families visit Dallas for the 86th National Convention from Aug. 16 to 23, they will find plenty to do in the city.

Also, by using the coupon, they can save \$2 on the \$8 fee by registering early. Of course, all Posts are reminded that they must register at least one delegate.

Day or night, Dallas offers much to fill in the time, for variety is the spice of the city's entertainment life, whether the choice is a reminder of the past or a sample of the present, an art museum or a professional sport, a stroll down the State Fair Midway or a fun-filled afternoon in a super amusement park.

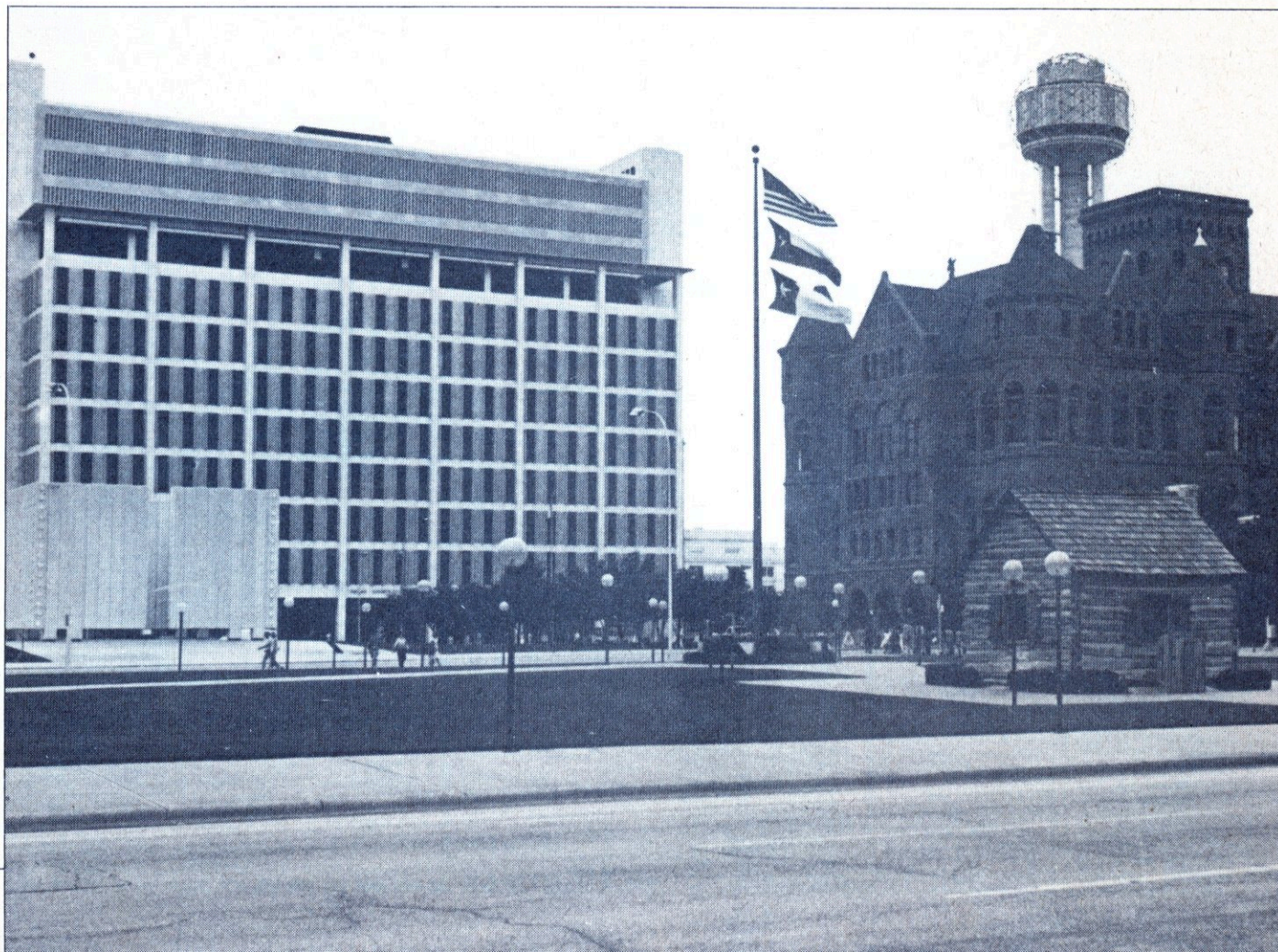
It is all available in Dallas. For families, one of the big plusses is the abundance of free or inexpensive entertainment. It is possible to spend several days making the varied rounds of the entertainment spectrum on a small entertainment budget with a

large excitement quotient.

No better example of the year-round entertainment prospects exists than Fair Park, home of the State Fair and the Cotton Bowl. Consisting of 275 acres with \$50 million worth of permanent facilities just east of downtown, Fair Park offers the Dallas Aquarium, the Garden Center, the Science Place, with 115 permanent exhibits; the Texas Hall of State Museum, built in 1936 to commemorate the Centennial of Texas Independence, the Dallas Museum of Natural History, the Age of Steam Railroad Museum and the State Fair Midway with countless carnival rides and an atmosphere all its own.

The visitor to Dallas can get a great view of the Dallas area from the observation deck atop Reunion Tower.

In downtown Dallas, the Kennedy Memorial and the Bryan Cabin are on the County Historical Plaza. The Memorial, left, is in the form of an empty tomb. The cabin, right, was the first house erected in what is now Dallas.



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There is a lot to see and do on the ground, too. For example, in the downtown area, can be found the John Neely Bryan Cabin, built in 1841 by the founder of Dallas; John F. Kennedy Plaza, a four-wall open cenotaph in memory of the 35th President of the United States; Thanks-Giving Square, a park with a tree-shaded garden, fountains, a lofty bell tower and chapel; Old City Park, where historic structures from the city's past have been restored to recreate something of the atmosphere of an old town square, and the beautifully restored Union Station with a visitor information center.

Downtown is also the site of the developing Arts District, with the magnificent new Dallas Museum of Art as the first completed structure, followed by a branch of the Dallas Theater Center. Future plans include a concert hall and an opera house as the other major cultural buildings. Another downtown area undergoing restoration is the West End Historic District, which already includes the New Arts Theatre, and unique restaurants.

Away from downtown, major attractions include Sandy Lake Park, with rides and activities for everyone in the family; Six Flags Over Texas, the 200-acre entertainment capital of Texas, and nearby Wax Museum of the Southwest; White Rock Lake which offers picnicking, fishing, bicycling, boating and beauty and numerous area lakes where boating, fishing, and water skiing abound.

Other major attractions include White Water Park—the largest in the U.S. (two locations), another water park—Wet'n Wild, the Texas Sports Hall of Fame, the Biblical Arts Center, the International Wildlife Park and

Traders Village, a year-round Texas-size flea market and entertainment center.

Sports is a veritable bonanza for Dallas spectators, who can watch professional football with the Dallas Cowboys, baseball with the Texas Rangers, golf with the PGA Byron Nelson Golf Classic, tennis with the World Championship Tennis Finals, Avon Championships of Dallas and several other major tournaments, rodeo by the Mesquite Championship Rodeo and the annual State Fair Rodeo and basketball with the newest NBA team, the Dallas Mavericks, who play their home games in the magnificent Reunion Arena.

The arena is one of the finest indoor facilities anywhere and will seat up to

19,500. Reunion Arena is also the site of the annual World Championship Tennis Finals, ice shows, circuses, concerts and many other events. Additionally, there is Southwest Conference action with the SMU Mustangs and literally hundreds of other college, high school and other amateur teams competing in all sports year-round.

Visitors who would rather play than watch can take advantage of Dallas's year-round climate for tennis, golf or jogging. The some 22,000 acres of parks maintained by the City of Dallas include public golf courses and public tennis courts. In addition, the county has more than 20 private country clubs. Many Dallas hotels have full athletic club facilities, as well as swimming, tennis, racquetball, and golf privileges available.

For conventioners' spouses and others whose ideas of entertainment may be somewhat different, shopping remains a vigorous indoor sport in a wide assortment of downtown shops and in neighborhood malls.

When darkness envelops Dallas, the

Continues on page 20

Airline Special

To encourage VFW delegates to attend the Dallas Convention, American Airlines is offering:

The lowest available fare in the market without restriction as to minimum stay and days of the week individual must travel. Travel must be between Aug. 12 and Aug. 27, 1985.

Reservations must be made through American Airlines Meeting Services Desk (1-800-433-1790). Reference should be made to STAR FILE NO. S 6866 when you call to make a reservation. American Airlines will book reservations on other airlines as well as at the lowest available fare those airlines have to offer.

American Airlines will provide the VFW with one complimentary round trip airline ticket for each 50 bookings made on American Airline flights

through the 800 number, which National Headquarters will pass along to the respective Departments from which reservations were made.

American Airlines will provide two complimentary plastic baggage tags to each person who purchases the airline ticket through the American Airlines/VFW Travel Program. The baggage tags are a souvenir of the VFW 86th National Convention.

Each person who purchases an airline ticket through the American Airlines/VFW Travel Program will automatically qualify for an opportunity to win two complimentary round trip coach trips to any city American Airlines serves, including Hawaii, London, Paris, Frankfurt, Mexico and cities within the U.S. The winner will be selected by a drawing at the VFW National Convention and will have up to one year to claim the award. ■

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The Statue of Liberty is one of the world's most famous monuments, not just because of the way she stands out dramatically in New York Harbor, but because of what she stands for: liberty, freedom and opportunity.

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A fully 17-faceted, .25 point diamond set in the center of the flame of the Torch of Liberty provides the buckle with gleam and fire. Two views of the statue flank the torch: in one she stands tall and proud, and the other is a

close-up of her face and crown. Pure 24 karat gold gives the buckle a richly-hued glow and the precious silver adds a soft lustre. Fireworks go out in seconds but this diamond belt buckle will sparkle forever.

Unique Number Assures Individuality

If you want to be the proud owner of this outstanding buckle, you must order soon. To keep this edition limited, the dies will be destroyed at the end of the Centennial Celebration. This may be your only chance to order this remarkable tribute to the foundation of freedom on which America stands.

Your Liberty buckle will arrive in a special Collector's Presentation Case with its Certificate of Authenticity. And because of the uniqueness and importance of this item, each buckle will be individually numbered, and the number recorded in the Archives of the Sterling Treasury. The faster you order, the greater your chance to receive a low serial number coveted by collectors.

city comes alive like a night-blooming flower, full of the perfume of mystery and enchantment, with sights and sounds to please every taste and to make the conventioneer's after-hours life a memorable time for many days to come.

Dallas has been called the "the night-clubbingest town in the United States" and it wears the title gracefully. The gamut runs from the Malachite and Venetian Rooms, where "name" entertainers regularly perform, to top country and western bands and singers at the famous Longhorn Ballroom. Las Vegas-style clubs, singles bars and discos, hotel ballrooms and showrooms and other clubs with off-beat entertainment from old movies to sophisticated jazz are available to visitors.

Dining out in Dallas is a special and multi-flavored event, no matter the price range. The culinary passion of Texas has traditionally been barbecue—food barbecued Texas-style will long be remembered. Popular south of the border restaurants are joined by dining adventures in French, Italian, Greek, German, Swiss, Oriental, Indian, Creole, Cajun and American Southern specialty restaurants. It does not bust the budget to have a great meal in any one of the hundreds of Dallas restaurants, no matter what your preference may be.

The after-dark culture lover will also be at home in Big D. Concerts by the Dallas Symphony Orchestra, Dallas Civic Music Association, Dallas Chamber Music Society, Dallas Opera and Dallas Ballet, whose new home is the magnificent, newly-restored Majestic Theatre, Dallas Theater Center, Theatre Three, Dallas Repertory Theater, New Arts Theatre, dinner playhouses, and various repertory companies will be enjoyable. During the summer months, the Dallas Summer Musicals bring newcomers and classics of the American stage to Dallas. Summer also means the Dallas Symphony's Summer Series when big name entertainers from classical and popular music fields perform with the symphony under the stars. It is a bit of old-fashioned Americana that combines with Dallas's other nightlife elements for a rousing good time. ■

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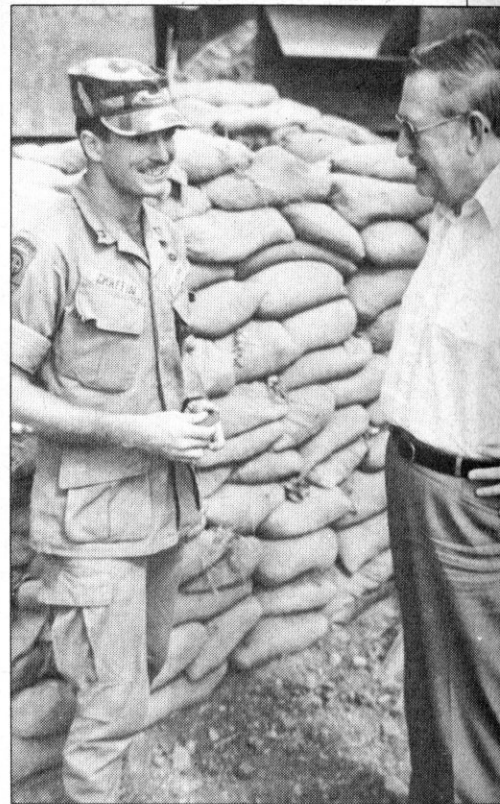
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Sr. Vice Commander-in-Chief John S. Staum, right, chats with PFC Howard L. Chaffin, a veteran of the Grenada expedition, at Fort Kobbe, Panama. (Army photo by SP5 Patrick Swan.)



By Ronald A. Duchin

THE UNITED STATES DOESN'T WANT ANY MORE VIETNAMS, AND WE do not want any more Cubas either."

That is what John D. Negroponte, U.S. ambassador to Honduras, told Sr. Vice Commander-in-Chief John S. Staum in Tegucigalpa in early February.

Staum was on a 13-day visit to Central America to study the military and political situations in Panama, Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala.

Staum explained to the U.S. ambassadors, defense attaches and key government officials in each of these countries he visited:

"I am here to get firsthand knowledge of U.S. military and diplomatic activities in Central America and to learn all I can about Communist expansion in this region of the world.

"The basis for my observations is the VFW's resolution to resist further Communist encroachment in Central America and to reassert the continued use of the Monroe Doctrine as our policy in the Western Hemisphere."

The first stop on Staum's trip took him to Panama. Although he had never been there before, he was keenly interested because of the strong position taken by the VFW against the Panama Canal Treaty in 1979.

In private meetings with U.S. Ambassador Everett E. Briggs and Panama President Nicholas Barletta, he was told the situation in Panama has changed dramatically since the treaty was ratified and now solid friendship exists between the U.S. and Panama.

"If we had not resolved the long-standing problem with Panama, no one knows where Panama might stand today in the Central America issue," Briggs said.

Panama is no longer hostile towards the United States; she no longer looks for assistance from Third World countries, and for the first time in many years, relations with the United States were not an issue in Panama's recent presidential elections, Briggs added.

After a tour of the Panama Canal

No More Vietnams or Cubas

and viewing the inner workings of the Miraflores Locks, Staum, like millions of others, was amazed at the American engineering genius that went into building the canal 82 years ago.

In Panama, Staum was given a detailed briefing on the military and political situation in Central America at the headquarters of the U.S. Southern Command.

The military briefers pointed out several key factors in U.S. vital interests in Central America:

- They are based on hard economic, geographic and political realities, as well as concepts of hemispheric solidarity and common heritage.

- The trend toward democracy in Central America is threatened by economic and social problems and by subversion directed by Cuba, Nicaragua and the Soviet Union.

- The Sandinistas in Nicaragua are becoming more involved in the shipment of illegal drugs to the United States, with profits going for weapons for Communist guerrillas in El Salvador and Guatemala.

- Fear of guerrilla warfare is driving many illegal immigrants to the United States.

- Nicaragua is now a serious threat to the other countries in Central America, serving as a sanctuary and supply line for weapons coming from Libya and the Warsaw Pact nations to guerrillas in El Salvador and Guatemala and developing huge conventional forces which greatly exceed her defensive requirements. Nicaragua claims the build-up is in response to the U.S. presence in Central America, but in fact, the U.S. presence in Central America is in direct response to the Nicaraguan buildup and not the cause of it.

- Two-thirds of U.S. oil imports, as well as many strategic minerals, pass through the Panama Canal or the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean.

- U.S. Gulf of Mexico ports and Caribbean shipping lanes handle almost half of all foreign trade tonnage entering and leaving the U.S.

- Oil refining and tanker port facilities in the region are among the largest in the world. The Panama Canal and pipeline transport 45% of U.S. Alaskan crude oil to these refineries.

- The Caribbean Basin is the fourth largest market in the world for U.S.

■ In time of war, half of NATO's supplies would depart Gulf ports. These shipments would include the bulk of the diesel and jet fuel and would be highly vulnerable to hostile submarines.

From Panama, Staum traveled to Tegucigalpa, capital of Honduras, where he met with Negroponte and the U.S. military attaches.

Negroponte reported that Honduras which returned to civilian and constitutional rule in 1982 after 18 years of military governments, is an extremely poor country that relies heavily on U.S. military and economic assistance to maintain her security from subversion and the external threat from Nicaragua.

Hondurans welcomed the opportunity to conduct joint military exercises with U.S. forces and U.S. assistance in building a regional military training center that can be used to train soldiers from other Central American countries, he said.

Accompanied by the U.S. defense attache, Air Force Col. Glenn Young, Staum flew to the Honduran Air Base at Palmerola where he visited U.S. soldiers assigned to Joint Task Force Bravo, a U.S. military unit that helps plan and conduct joint U.S.-Honduras training exercises. Staum said he was impressed by the work being done at

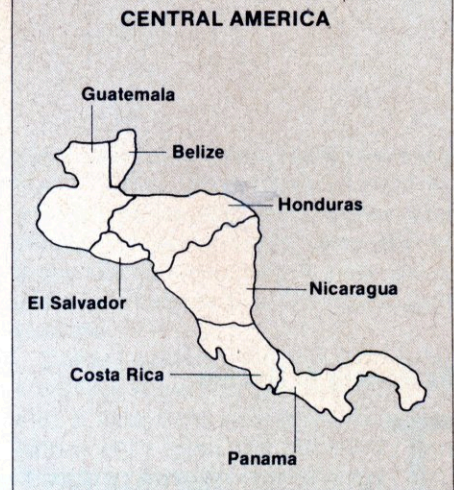
the U.S. Army's 47th Field Hospital to help thousands of Honduran peasants with good medical care. Long-lasting friendships for the United States are resulting from these activities.

Staum also visited two refugee camps in Honduras—one, Mesa Grande for refugees from El Salvador, and the other at Jacaleapa for Nicaraguan refugees.

Honduras has 38,000 refugees under control of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. Leaving the camps, Staum said, "Today, I saw, once again, evidence of the evil and horror that Communist insurgency brings to freedom-loving people. I now know what squalor really is."

In El Salvador, there was ample opportunity to see positive results of U.S. economic and military assistance. Staum had private meetings with the U.S. embassy's deputy chief of mission, David Passage, and Salvadoran vice minister of Defense Gen. Rafael Flores-Lima.

During a helicopter tour of the country, he observed U.S. Army trainers working side-by-side with Salvadoran Army units, conversing in Spanish and teaching military tactics and techniques. U.S. military attaches emphasized that the Salvadoran Armed Forces have improved dramatically, with the balance shifting



In Central America, Sr. Vice Commander-in-Chief John S. Staum was briefed by U.S. diplomatic and military officials in Panama, Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala. He was apprised also of the situation in those countries by their leading political figures.

from the rebels as Salvadoran troops learn from experience and benefit from U.S. training. As a result of the Salvadoran Army's improvement, the guerrillas are losing public sympathy and must kidnap peasant youths to gain recruits.

After visiting El Salvador, Staum said he found reason for optimism there, based on what he saw in the field and the U.S. embassy's view that President Jose Napoleon Duarte is making strides toward improved human rights and an end to right wing death squads that terrorized the population.

Guatemala was Staum's final stop. In a private session with U.S. Ambassador Alberto Piedra, he learned that the situation in Guatemala is very different from that in the rest of Central America.

Six years ago the people of Guatemala were being squeezed between a repressive government and its violent opposition fueled by Cuban interference. Church leaders, labor organizers and political leaders were killed by the opposing sides.

At the same time, the military government rejected a plan for much needed development projects that would have improved life for the rural peasant majority. This led to more violence, a guerrilla war and almost a victory by the Communist guerrillas.

Now, six years later, the guerrillas are almost defeated and a great deal has been done to improve the lives of the vast Indian population and to re-

“

The basis for my observations is the VFW's resolution to resist further Communist encroachment in Central America and to reassert the continued use of the Monroe Doctrine as our policy in the Western Hemisphere.

”

store human rights. All this has occurred without U.S. assistance because this country curtailed the flow of aid to Guatemala during the Carter Administration. The reason for this was Guatemala's poor human rights record.

Ambassador Piedra stressed that the U.S. is encouraging Guatemala to make further progress. U.S. economic assistance is vital if the government of Guatemala is to be able to meet the basic needs of the Indian population which has suffered most, he added. U.S. support for Guatemalans who are attempting to restore democracy, improve human rights, meet human needs and defeat externally supported Marxist guerrillas is important to help create a sound basis for the elected civilian government that will take charge next year, the ambassador asserted.

Staum was honored by the embassy at a reception attended by 30 American veterans residing permanently in Guatemala. They agreed that U.S. policy for Central America was finally the correct one and asked Staum to help obtain more military assistance for Guatemala.

After returning to the U.S., Staum told the VFW National Security and Foreign Affairs Committee what he had seen and heard in Central America.

"I personally believe our resolutions covering Central America are on target," he said. "U.S. vital interests are at stake and at the same time the Communist threat is growing because of Soviet, and Nicaraguan involvement in the affairs of other countries. Without help from the United States, the freedom-loving countries in Central America will face an unequal struggle."

"If we expect to help with these problems, we must continue to support the 'contras' in Nicaragua and help Panama, El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala financially and with military assistance that will allow them to defend themselves. Ambassador Negroponte is right. We do not want any more Vietnams and certainly no more Cubas."

About the Author:

The writer is VFW Public Affairs Director, Washington Office.

VFW, Nicaragua and Post 5888

Opposition to the spread of Communism in the Western Hemisphere as a threat to United States security and that of the other countries in North, South and Central America has long been the keystone of VFW positions on Latin America unanimously expressed delegates to a long series of National Conventions.

Coupled with these is National Convention support for the Monroe Doctrine enunciated in 1823 as the cornerstone of U.S. policy toward this region of the world.

Resolutions, such as these, democratically adopted by National Conventions, are binding on officers at all levels of the organizations, and individual members as well, when they are speaking for the VFW as officers or members.

In arriving at these positions, the VFW follows an extremely democratic procedure, with ample opportunity for expressions of dissent during National Convention debate on resolutions. The same is true on all other levels of the organization.

Once adoption of a resolution is officially noted, the VFW speaks with one voice. Further, in his acceptance speech, each newly-elected Commander-in-Chief pledges to support the mandates of the National Convention during his year in office.

Two major changes in traditional VFW policies were made in just this manner in recent years: the admission of women to the organization and the establishment of a political action committee.

Because of a deviation from this practice, Commander-in-Chief Billy Ray Cameron recently revoked the charter of 67-member Post 5888, Santa Cruz, Calif. This action was taken with the recommendation and concurrence of Commander Joseph F. Martin, of the Department of Cali-

fornia, and the National Council of Administration, the supreme governing body of the VFW between National Conventions. His authority was Section 211 of the National By-Laws.

Post 5888 had adopted in April, 1984, a resolution to be submitted to the 85th National Convention to replace Resolution 425 adopted by the 84th National Convention setting forth VFW opposition to further Communist gains in Central America and calling for adherence to the Monroe Doctrine. The Post, in taking this step, was acting in accordance with VFW procedure. Post 5888's resolution, voted down at the 1984 California Department Convention, would have put the VFW on record as supporting "a policy of self-determination and non-intervention in Central America." In other words, let the Communists have their way. At the 85th National Convention, Resolution 414, reaffirming the VFW's longstanding policy toward Latin America, was adopted.

Beaten at the Department level, Post 5888 leaders delivered their Post-adopted resolution to Sandinista leaders in Nicaragua as if it were the position of the National Organization.

In announcing his decision, Cameron said, "I fully recognize the right of individuals to speak out on issues of concern. Elements of the organization, however, must abide by the mandates of the National Convention, myself included. There are times and places built into our system for the expression of opinions on all our resolutions."

Among the distasteful aspects of Post 5888's action is that the Post is composed exclusively of Vietnam veterans and some newspaper accounts have left the impression that this controversy is an outgrowth of a conflict between older and younger veterans—WWII "hawks" versus Vietnam "doves."

Far from it. It is a simple case of 67 VFW members flouting long established rules of the National Organization to get their own way after failing to make their case on its merits and in the prescribed manner.

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N O W H E A R T H I S

Kodak Launches Liberty Drive

By sending \$10 and a picture of your family to America's family Album, Box 23195, Rochester, N.Y. 14692, you can be part of Eastman Kodak Co.'s effort to help renovate the Statue of Liberty.

The \$10 fee will help Kodak meet its pledge to support the restoration and these pictures then will be collected, the images transferred to an optical disk system for visual display in "America's Family Album" at the Statue of Liberty National Monument.

For each photograph submitted, you will receive a certificate attesting to your family's inclusion in the album and an ID card which will enable your family to locate the photographs when they visit the monument.

The ID card can be passed onto future family members, but the card is not essential to those who just want to review the photographic display.

The exhibit featuring "America's Family Album" will open to coincide with the refurbished Statue of Liberty on July 4, 1986, and will offer an opportunity for families to update the chronicle of their transplanted roots on the same soil where their forefathers first trod.

Details explaining participation by the public are available from photo retailers and in national ads Kodak is running supporting this program. One appeared in the VFW Magazine's February issue.

Training Program Announced

The VA has announced a pilot project to encourage vocational rehabilitation of certain veterans receiving VA compensation or pension payments.

VA Administrator Harry N. Walters said the program applies to certain veterans receiving need-based VA pension and to a special group of veterans with total disability ratings.

Under the new vocational training program for pensioners, each veteran, under 50, who is awarded pension during the period beginning Feb. 1, 1985, and ending Jan. 31, 1989, is required to undergo a vocational

evaluation. Veterans over 50 may participate on a voluntary basis. If the evaluation indicates that the veteran's achievement of a vocational goal after rehabilitation is feasible, the veteran may elect to participate in an individually designed program of vocational training and employment services.

Vets' Handbook, 1985

The VA's 1985 benefits handbook detailing the services available to eligible veterans and their dependents has been published and is available to the public from the Superintendent of Documents in Washington, D.C. 20402. Cost is \$2.50.

The 88-page handbook, "Federal Benefits for Veterans and Dependents," is produced annually by the VA and printed by the Government Printing Office.

Among the VA benefits outlined in the handbook are medical care, education, compensation, pension, insurance, home loan guaranty, job training, and burial assistance. There is also information on medical benefits for veterans who were exposed to Agent Orange and radiation, and for veterans suffering from post traumatic stress disorder.

Employment assistance and other Department of Labor benefits for veterans are described as well as benefits provided by the Department of Defense and other government offices.

The handbook lists the addresses and local phone numbers of all VA offices, medical centers, national cemeteries, Vietnam veteran counseling centers, and other VA facilities.

Correction

The 503rd Parachute Infantry Regiment was a separate, non-divisional unit and not a part of the 11th Airborne Division as indicated in a picture caption illustrating "Dash to Manila" (April). Corregidor was retaken by the 503rd and reinforced 3rd Battalion, 34th Infantry, 24th Division.

Continues on page 56

M

emorial Day holds special meaning for those who hold sacred the memory of the thousands of American servicemen who gave their lives in the defense of freedom.

For the widow of a World War II aviator, Memorial Day, 1984 marked the first time in 39 years that she knew for sure his ultimate sacrifice was recognized by a grateful nation.

It was May 23, 1945, when 1st Lt. Leonard Ivan Hughes's B-29 Superfortress joined 525 other 20th Air Force bombers for the long mission from Saipan to Tokyo. Unfortunately, this young pilot from Battle Creek, Mich., never returned.

During the raid on an industrial area south of the Imperial Palace along the west side of Tokyo harbor, 27 planes were lost, including Lt.

Hughes's. His copilot managed to bail out, only to be captured and put into a Japanese prisoner of war camp. The fate of the other crewmembers is not known. The war ended just three months later on Aug. 14, 1945.

Lt. Hughes's wife was notified not long afterwards that her husband was missing in action and presumed dead. For almost four decades, it

seemed the chapter on the flyer's short life was closed. His young wife eventually remarried and moved to Leavenworth, Kans.

Then, in 1982, the senior Air Force representative at Fort Leavenworth, Col. Ronald Barker, was researching a project at the fort's museum. The colonel was approached by Jim Payne, a carpenter who was refurbishing a few of the museum's

At Peace At Last

By Capt. David L. Sims



wagons and caissons.

"Jim introduced himself and told me how he and his wife had seen a television program about American military cemeteries overseas," Barker remembered.

"He said his wife's first husband, Lt. Hughes, had been a pilot and was killed in World War II. She never learned whether his name might be included among those listed as missing in action at one of these overseas cemeteries."

Payne thought he might be listed at the American Military Cemetery at Manila in the Philippines, and

asked if Barker could find out for sure.

Barker, a pilot with a keen interest in aviation history, eagerly accepted the challenge. He contacted the American Battle Monuments Commission in Washington, D.C. He was notified that Hughes wasn't listed on the tablet of the missing in Manila, but rather at the National Cemetery of the Pacific in Honolulu.

The cemetery lies in the crater of an extinct volcano popularly known as the Punchbowl because of its circular shape. In its eight Courts of the Missing are recorded the names of 18,093 missing in the Pacific (other than the Southwest Pacific) of World War II, 8,194 of the Korean conflict and 2,489 from the Vietnam War.

The commission also told Barker that Mrs. Payne was entitled to several benefits, including a large photograph of Punchbowl Cemetery with an inset showing the section of the tablets of the missing on which Hughes's name is engraved.

The colonel took yet another step back into history when he learned

that Mrs. Payne knew little of the circumstances surrounding the last flight of her first husband nor did she receive any of his decorations.

"I was transferred to the headquarters of the Pacific Air Forces at Hickam AFB, Hawaii, about a year later," Barker explained. "And it was here, working with the PACAF and historians, that I was able to reconstruct the official account of the mission.

"After determining what decorations Lt. Hughes had earned, I purchased them and made a shadow box which I sent to Mrs. Payne. In it were displayed his Distinguished Flying Cross and Purple Heart, both awarded posthumously, the Air Medal with two oak leaf clusters, his pilot wings, and rank insignia."

He also included the Asia-Pacific Campaign Ribbon, the World War II Victory Medal, and the Outstanding Unit Award which the 882d Bomb Squadron, 500th Bomb Group, was authorized.

The colonel visited the Punchbowl soon after moving to Hawaii and located the lieutenant's name inscribed on the Tablets of the Missing in court Number 7. Barker and his wife, Mary, took flowers and were most likely the first ever to visit this peaceful spot on Lt. Hughes's behalf.

Only a fellow pilot might fully understand why Col. Barker spent so much time and effort in his quest for the facts surrounding a young pilot from Battle Creek who didn't come home from battle. A partial explanation might be found in what the colonel wrote to Mrs. Payne:

"I truly believe that the good Lord had a personal hand in introducing me to you wonderful people and having me assigned to Hawaii. I have a very warm feeling now that someone has visited the Memorial and paid their respects to Leonard. He is at peace at last." ■





What really is all the fuss about Memorial Day?

Let me get a little personal, talk a bit about what a real meaning can be had from just one Memorial Day, a sunny, bright three-day period in May, 1981.

That weekend started early on a Saturday morning watching preparations for a war memorial dedication in the steel town of Monessen in Pennsylvania and ended Monday as the last sounds of a bugler sounding "Taps" wafted across the beautiful grounds surrounding the soldiers' plot in a cemetery in the adjoining residential

community of Belle Vernon.

My memories I'm sure were not mine alone. They must have been shared by countless hundreds of thousands all across this land.

It was Memorial Day weekend—that time when traditionally we start thinking about the fun and games the approaching summer season brings.

However, I wasn't thinking of fun and games. Instead, my mind was recalling those dark days of World War II, just as probably others were thinking of the dark days of World War I, the Korean War—and that other war so many have tried to forget, Vietnam.

I'm sure that, although my

memories were personal to me, those personal thoughts could be shared by us all.

Memories of the sad days when we lost new-found friends, strangers one day but bosom buddies the next.

Those friends were so close, but they were forgotten once we parted. Their names and faces were stored in the dark recesses of our minds, only to have a cannon fired on a grassy plot in Monessen bring them once again flashing back from the past.

We all go through troubled times in our lifetimes. Some maybe more than others, but we are molded by how we handle those troubles.

In such a way were molded those

Memorial Day Memories



By R. Mitchell Steen



men and women of World War II, the vast majority of whom didn't want to be where they were, doing what they were doing. All would have preferred thinking about those fun and games.

Those nearly five years I spent in olive drab at times and dirty green at others all flashed back in my memory as if they were only yesterday and not 40 years ago.

I recalled the days when I was first inducted in a quiet maze of wooden barrack buildings known as Indiantown Gap.

I recalled those days of early training, learning to march, to obey orders, how to handle a rifle and grenade, even before we had rifles and grenades to go around.

I recalled meeting for the first time that guy from Alabama, or Texas, or Missouri, with whom we were thrown together in a common cause. New friendships were formed, some to last forever, others to end as quickly and as suddenly as a shot from an enemy's gun.

I recalled the good times—those few diluted beers in a PX in Georgia, where we all tried to hold on to part of our past and present in a rapidly changing environment.

I recalled the bad times. They came when the news filtered down that your new friend just couldn't cope with the many rapid adjustments and cracked under the

pressures. After all, we were asked to take a lifetime of conditioning, being told not to kill and then in a moment's notice told to do just the opposite.

I recalled the sad moments when we saw with our own eyes buddies torn apart by shrapnel.

I recalled the many moments of loneliness on some forsaken island in the Pacific or a rice field in the Philippines. That loneliness was broken only by a short letter from home, maybe a crumpled cookie a devoted mother, a loving wife or girl friend had spent hours making and preparing for safe shipment.

Those joys appear to many today to be insignificant, probably would even draw chuckles. But in those days and those times, there were no laughs at mail call—unless they were laughs and tears of joy.

Yes, memories swept across my mind as I heard "Taps" in honor of those who had made what has been called a supreme sacrifice.

I remember Charles Klingensmith. I remember Johnny (Peanuts) Hazard. I remember Clyde Blankenship. I remember Harry Bruno and Frankie Wojchiechowski.

They were friends out of my past. Today they are only names etched in stone on some small monument in some small park somewhere in this great land.

I had forgotten them until I heard

"Taps". Their names and faces flashed through my memory as if it were only yesterday.

Come to think of it, it was just yesterday. And those faces, those names could be names we all can remember—just change the location a bit.

I am not alone, I repeat, because all of those who served at one time or another have the same memories.

My name can't be found on any of those slabs of granite and marble. You see, I was one of the lucky ones. I came home. The same can't be said for all of those others we honored over that weekend.

Some of those names belonged to guys who stormed a beach with me in the South Pacific. Some were buddies I hacked through thick jungles with in New Guinea and others were friends I waded through rice paddies with in remote sections of the Philippines.

We would sincerely hope that all those memories are not in vain. Most of all, we would sincerely hope that all those deaths of my friends—and your friends—also were not in vain.

Remember, these are the guys who helped make all those summer fun and games possible. ■

About the author

R. Mitchell Steen, an Army veteran of WWII, is a retired newspaperman. He lives in Dunlevy, Pa.



In Honor Of...

By M. O. Seymour

T

he Flag that flies in front of the Administration Building at Fort Lauderdale, Fla.,

Memorial Park, honors all veterans under a different name each month.

Cemetery Manager Herbert B. Carroll explains:

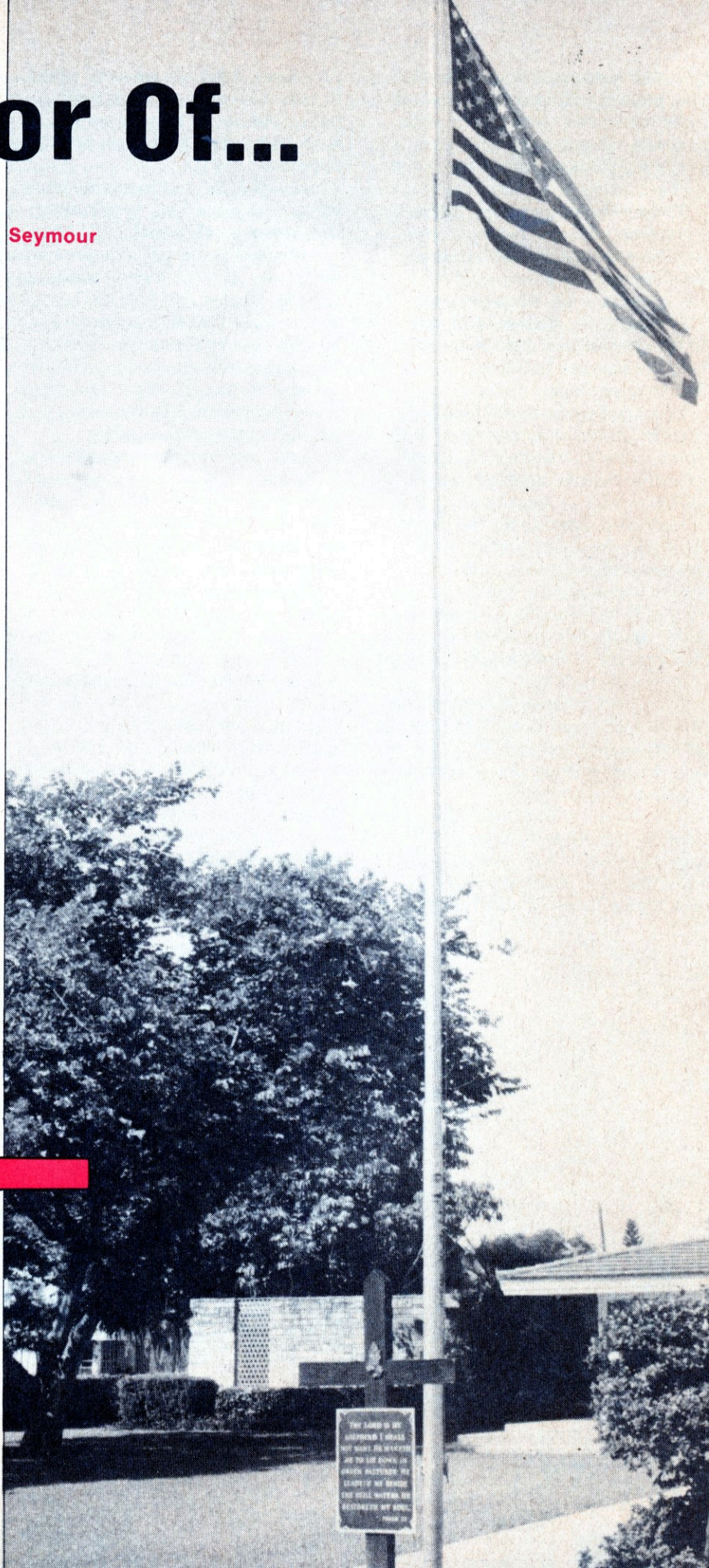
"We have nearly 3,000 veterans from as far as the Spanish-American War buried in the three cemeteries the City of Fort Lauderdale owns and operates. For years, we have used the main flagpole in Memorial Park and the bronze marker at its base to honor all the military services all year 'round.

"Changing from a one-for-all Flag to an individual casket Flag and displaying the veteran's name on the bronze marker came about because of one of the special services we provide. If the service person's family members request it at the time of internment, we will receive their Flag, label it and place it in storage.

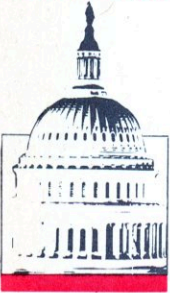
"Then on Memorial Day each year we bring out all the Flags, erect temporary flagstaffs, put up identifying markers and display them along the interior roadways. In 1984 we set out 590 Flags and as we gathered them in at the end of the day, it occurred to me that they deserved to be on display more than just once a year. But since we don't have the personnel to handle all 590 Flags every day, we decided to try out the idea of using just one each month.

"When we contacted the families of the first veteran whose Flag was selected, they were very appreciative. Now, after only five months, families are beginning to call us and ask that their Flags be flown."

Veterans' organizations in and around Fort Lauderdale, including VFW Post 1966, also have expressed their deep appreciation for the flags that fly In Honor Of.



WASHINGTON CONFERENCE



Protecting veterans' entitlements against budget cuts and assuring a strong national defense in the face of Soviet military expansion were the major themes of the annual Mid-Winter Conference of VFW leaders from all parts of the nation and several overseas locations from March 8 to 12 in Washington.

Highlight of the event was the appearance on March 12 of Commander-in-Chief Billy Ray Cameron at a joint hearing of the House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committees when he presented VFW legislative recommendations and protested proposed reductions in VA programs. (His statement begins on page 6.)

At the concluding event, the annual Congressional Dinner at the Sheraton-Washington Hotel honoring members of Congress, South Carolina's Sen. Strom Thurmond, a VFW Life Member, received the VFW's prestigious Congressional Award for outstanding service to the nation and requested that Cameron give the \$1,000 ac-

VFW: 'Best of America'

companying it to the Strom Thurmond Foundation to aid in the education of needy youths.

Thurmond, senior member of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee and chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, praised the VFW for its emphasis on "principles of citizenship and service which I value highly."

"The members of the VFW have clearly demonstrated that they are true patriots, dedicated to the best of America," he continued. "The principles of the VFW are lofty and its work in the programs of Community and Youth Activities and Buddy Poppies programs deserves high praise."

Thurmond also had high praise for the VFW's sponsoring of the Voice of Democracy, noting that it "teaches young people the basic values of our nation and I wish to commend the participants from around the country who are here tonight."

President Reagan wired these congratulations:

"I am happy to send warm greetings to members of the VFW as you present

While announcing his retirement before the National Council of Administration, Quartermaster Gen. J.A. Cheatham reviews the organization's financial condition.



Sen. Strom Thurmond with your prestigious 1985 Congressional Award.

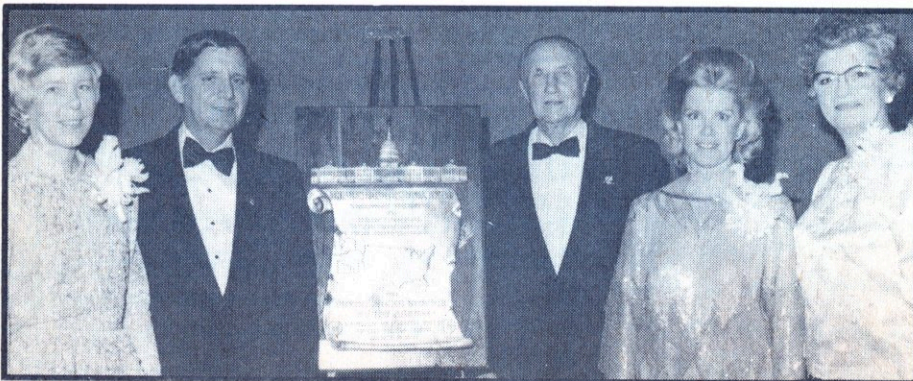
"Your fine organization could not have chosen a more deserving member of the United States Senate. I cannot thank him enough for his support of our nation's defense buildup, which is helping to secure peace throughout the world. In addition, his support for the welfare of our veterans who fought so bravely for our country will be long remembered.

"Nancy and I extend to Strom our congratulations and best wishes on this auspicious occasion."

Before Thurmond spoke, each Department's Voice of Democracy winner was introduced and the first place winner, Kristin Lindholm, of Kansas City, Mo., read her essay. Her prize was a \$14,000 scholarship. Her text appears on page 16.

"Especially impressive is the VFW's stand for a strong national defense," Thurmond said.

Discussing the MIA/POW issue, Thurmond said that last year as president pro tem of the Senate, he



Posing with the Congressional Award presented to Sen. Strom Thurmond are Mrs. Billy Ray Cameron, Commander-in-Chief Cameron, Sen. Thurmond, Mrs. Thurmond and Auxiliary President Glenneta Vogelsang.

Past Commander-in-Chief Frank Hilton with Commander-in-Chief Billy Ray Cameron.



helped organize ceremonies across the country at which POW/MIA families were presented with special medals authorized by Congress.

"The best way, however, we can honor these individuals is to continue to demand that the Indo-Chinese governments give us the fullest possible accounting for the 2,483 men who are missing in action," he said.

He also praised the troops who took part in the attempt to keep the peace in Lebanon and those who fought in Grenada.

"We have once again shown the world that the United States is a force for good and for freedom," he added. "Those so-called 'national leaders' who called for more isolationism and who counselled against our involvement in Grenada were wrong. If they need more proof of the justness of our mission, I suggest they ask the citizens of Grenada who are free of Communist oppression for the first time in years."

In view of the sacrifices veterans have made for U.S. freedom, Thurmond said, "While we will never be

able to repay our veterans for their service, loyalty and courage, we must be sensitive and responsive to the changing needs of our veterans and make every effort to meet adequately those needs."

In this connection, he continued, veterans "should not be expected to bear an unfair share of the effort to bring federal spending under control.

"Toward that end, I will vigorously oppose any plans that would undercut quality health and medical care for our veterans and the government's longstanding commitment to grant preference to our veterans in hiring for federal jobs."

A supporter of a strong national defense, Thurmond said current defense spending accounts for little more than a fourth of the entire federal budget, although fewer than 25 years ago it made up nearly half.

"To make the size cuts some recommend would only imperil our national security and would not be in our best interest as the leader of the free world," he declared.

Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger tells the Mid-Winter Conference of the need to counter the Soviet military buildup.



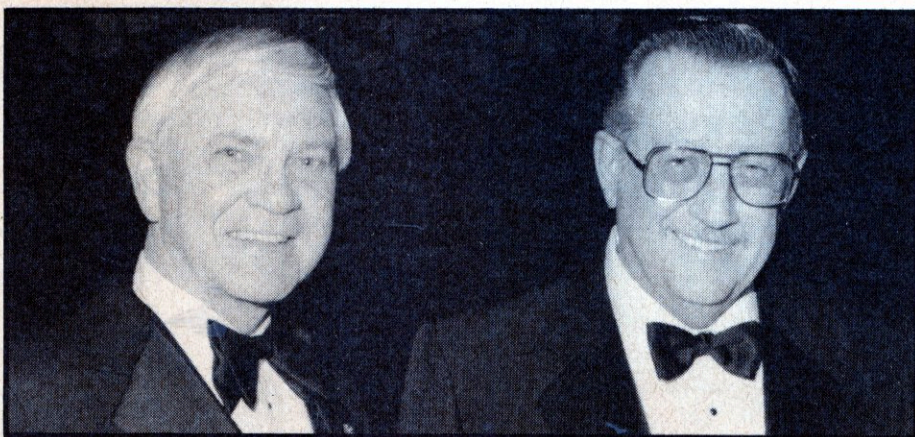
Thurmond described the situation in Central America as "a great challenge to freedom" as freedom fighters are "attempting to bring a democratic government to Nicaragua while its neighbor, El Salvador, is waging a battle against Communist forces which seek to control that nation."

The U.S. must not turn its back on the problems of Central America, for it would be unfair to the region's people who look to this country for help and would be a "grave threat" to U.S. security.

Critics of U.S. Central American policy are some of the same ones who objected to the Vietnam War, he said, adding that "we need not test the bankruptcy of their ideas on another group of innocent people who seek only to be free and govern themselves.

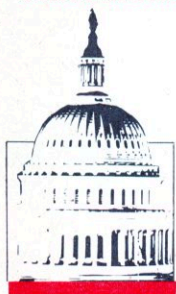
Thurmond urged continued support for the Afghans fighting against the Soviets who are using gas and committing other atrocities against them.

At the General Session Monday, Aug. 11, Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger, who left immediately after-



Washington Office Executive Director Cooper T. Holt with Sr. Vice Commander-in-Chief John S. Staum.

WASHINGTON CONFERENCE



ward for the arms talks with the Soviets in Geneva, said the U.S. will enter the negotiations with a "clear and realistic understanding" of what this country seeks. He listed these goals as improved deterrence, enhancement of international stability and meaningful agreements "that will move toward a safer world."

U.S. negotiators will not accept "vague promises in place of precise wording" or endorse proposals "that merely ratify Soviet advantages as did the SALT Treaty."

Expressing the need for adoption of additional MX Peacekeeper missiles, Weinberger said Congressional approval of this weapon will indicate this country's resolve to stay strong.

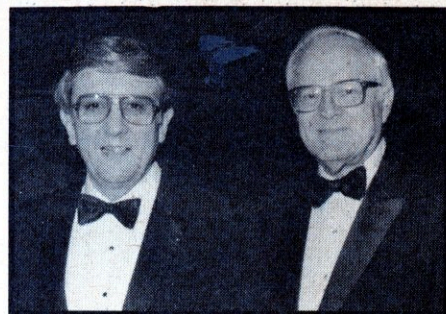
Weinberger, comparing the situation of the 1970s with the present, said that when SALT I was signed in 1972, the Soviets had about 2,300 strategic nuclear weapons, but today they have more than 8,000 warheads on their ballistic missiles, "a massive increase permitted by SALT I and II."

"That demonstrates as perhaps nothing else can the flaws inherent in the assumptions with which we approached those SALT negotiations," he continued. "The greatest delusion America suffered during that period was that the SALT agreements really meant arms reductions. They did not. They did not even mean arms limitations."

"To arrest the decline in U.S. nuclear strength, Weinberger said, the Reagan Administration since 1981 "has stressed the need to modernize America's strategic nuclear triad—bombers, missile-firing submarines and land-based missiles."

At the General Session also Fred Von Rembow, retired Assistant National Veterans Service Director and VFW PAC Director, was presented by Cameron with the VFW Distinguished Service Award and Certificate of Retirement. Retired Post Development Assistant Director Albert Hall also received the Certificate of Retirement. Hall said he was nine short of recruiting 26,000 VFW members, but ex-

Past Commander-in-Chief Howard Vander Clute poses with retiring QM Gen. J.A. Cheatham.



pected to make up the shortage by the end of March. He also organized 618 Posts in 35 years.

Auxiliary President Glenneta Vogel-sang presented Cameron with a \$70,000 check, the last half of the \$140,000 the Ladies Auxiliary pledged to contribute to VFW programs. She said this was a 10% increase over last year's amount and added that the Auxiliary has reached 98% of its membership goal, but is 97,500 ahead of the same period in 1984.

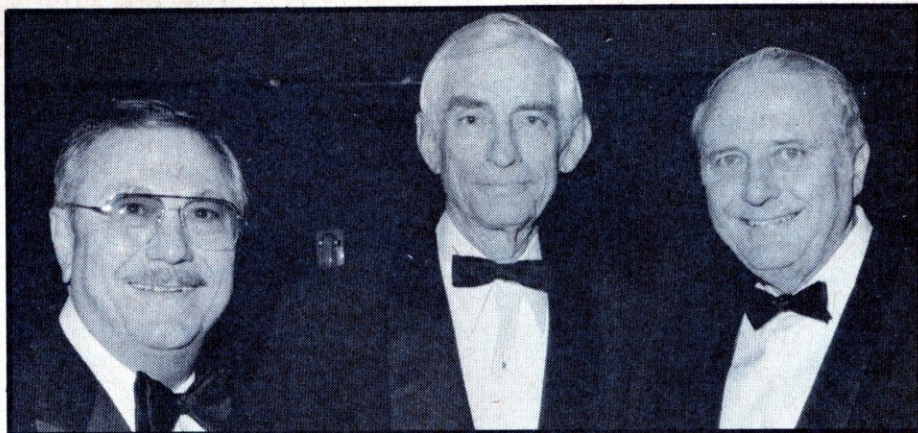
Cameron turned over to retired Navy Capt. Harry Allendorfer, Jr., of the Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation, a check for \$121,905, raised by the VFW for the Statue of Liberty's renovation. Allendorfer said this amount plus the Auxiliary's \$73,805 and \$10,512 from Posts and individuals has brought the VFW's total to \$204,403. He said the statue's refurbishing is on schedule, with a major celebration planned for next July 4 in connection with the statue's centennial.

Final portion of the General Session



Past Commander-in-Chief Ray Soden with Sr. Vice Commander-in-Chief John S. Staum.

Jr. Vice Commander-in-Chief Norman G. Staab, Rep. Charles O. Whitley (N.C.) and Secretary of the Army John Marsh.



was a recapitulation of threats to veterans' benefits by Cooper T. Holt, Executive Director of the VFW Washington Office.

Holt said the Reagan Administration listens to the Grace Commission, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) and the Heritage Foundation.

Grace Commission recommendations are a reduction of the average stay in VA hospitals to that in private facilities; deletion of funds for VA hospital construction not already contracted for from the VA budget; taking of longterm bids from private companies to lease VA hospitals; management of VA hospitals by private companies under short-term contracts; a halt to VA nursing home construction; a reduction in VA acute care nursing home beds to reach an 80% occupancy rate, and phasing out of old hospitals that may need replacement or extensive reconstruction.

CBO, Holt said, calls for dismantling VA hospitals by 1990 and the VA to help get care for poor veterans and those with service connected disabili-

ties in private hospitals on contract or fee-basis and reimbursement procedure.

CBO also would limit VA-operated nursing home care to that provided in non-VA facilities, which would mean most would be helped by the VA for a maximum of six months, Holt said.

Other CBO recommendations, he said, would institute a cost-sharing arrangement instead of totally free hospital and nursing home care to non-service connected veterans and eliminate compensation to veterans with less than 30% disability ratings.

The Heritage Foundation would limit compensation to veterans and their survivors if the disabilities are traceable to combat or job performance "as defined under workmen's compensation regulations."

Pensions for veterans and their survivors would be eliminated if they are not compensable as service connected, Holt said.

A third Heritage Foundation proposal cited by Holt would dismantle the VA health care system, and veter-

ans with "legitimate claims" would get it from community facilities on a reimbursable basis as do Medicaid and Medicare patients.

Holt accused Office of Management and Budget Director David Stockman of spearheading the current attacks on veterans' programs. Last month Commander-in-Chief Cameron demanded that President Reagan fire Stockman.

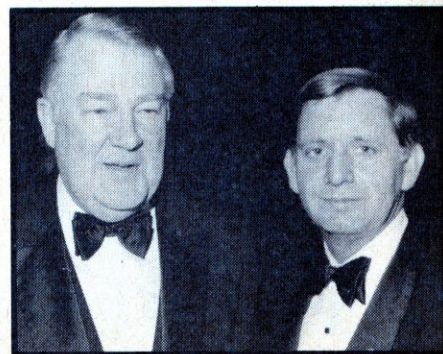
Adding his voice in support of the MX Peacekeeper was Gen. Charles Gabriel, Air Force chief of staff, who addressed the National Security and Foreign Affairs Committee on Sunday National Security and Foreign Affairs Committee on Sunday, March 10.

He said adoption of the additional Peacekeepers was vital to strengthening the defense triad and "all we are trying to do with it is to recapture what we have lost." He also called for an increased U.S. chemical warfare capability in the face of gains made in this area by the Soviets.

Lt. Gen. William Odom, Army assistant chief of Staff for intelligence,



Auxiliary President Glenneta Vogel-sang announces a \$70,000 gift from her organization to the VFW for its programs.



U.S. Atty. Gen. Edwin Meese III with Commander-in-Chief Billy Ray Cameron.

WASHINGTON CONFERENCE



described to the committee the multifaceted Soviet threat concentrated in the Far East, Southwest Asia and Europe, with the Caribbean and Southern African regions as two additional areas where it is becoming dangerous. Soviet strategy calls for a quick knockout blow, he said, but U.S. policy is to slow it down to the point where the USSR cannot recover the initiative.

Dr. Jerry Yonas, President Reagan's chief scientific adviser for the strategic defense initiative, the so-called Star Wars, said SDI is revolutionary because it provides a means to destroy incoming missiles before they destroy their targets without relying on retaliation.

Even mention of SDI research has worried the Soviets to the point they are pulling out all stops to prevent further work on it because it throws their whole military planning off balance, he said.

At the National Legislative Committee, Rep. G.V. (Sonny) Montgomery,

who chairs the House Veterans Affairs Committee, said his committee "wouldn't like it," but would agree to freezes in COLAs for pensions and compensation if they are across the board for all government entitlement programs.

VA Administrator Harry N. Walters promised the VA would improve its service to veterans but would support proposals to cut out medical care for non-service connected veterans if they can afford to pay for it, even those over 65. "Need rather than age" should be the criterion, he said, adding that "fairness has nothing to do with the budget."

Newly-named Senate Veterans Affairs Committee chairman, Frank Murkowski, of Alaska, said, "I don't believe the solution to problems is to throw money at them."

Reagan Administration budget proposals, he continued, "are not against the veteran because the veterans will not be called on to share reductions in programs not shared by other Americans."

Quartermaster Gen. J.A. Cheatham

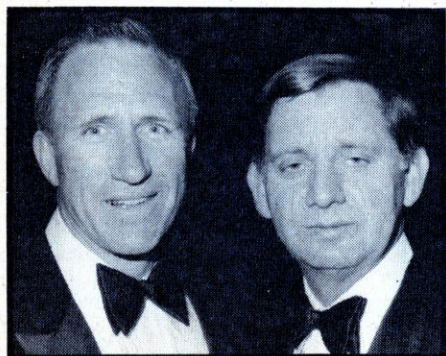
Sen. Strom Thurmond (S.C.) calls for a stronger American defense and protection of veterans' entitlements at the Congressional Dinner following the presentation of the annual Congressional Award. It was given to him for outstanding service to the nation.



announced his retirement effective at the end of March during the National Council of Administration meeting on Saturday, March 9. He was the first World War II veteran hired at National Headquarters and was elected Quartermaster General in 1962. He had been with the organization for 40 years.

Joining in praising him for his sound financial management of the organization were Commander-in-Chief Cameron who said "it has been an honor to work with him" and Adjutant Gen. Howard E. Vander Clute, Jr., who said "the record speaks for itself."

Chairman of the National Awards and Citations Committee Charles Kinney announced that Lee Greenwood, country and western singer, has been named to receive the Americanism Award for his song, "I Love the USA;" Deputy VA Director Everett Alvarez, the Citizenship Award, and Sen. Richard G. Lugar (Ind.), chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, the Dwight David Eisenhower Distinguished Service Award. ■



VA Administrator Harry N. Walters and Commander-in-Chief Billy Ray Cameron.



Commander-in-Chief Billy Ray Cameron, Joseph Derrickson and Warren Hutchings, of Coors.

This part of the beaten remnant of the 11th Panzer Division passed through 2nd Division lines in Czechoslovakia to surrender to the 97th Division. They carried all their weapons with them.



WHEN THE GERMANS SURRENDERED 40 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH to end World War II in Europe, their leaders formally ratified action their remaining troops and people had taken already.

Great masses of German soldiers, along with slave laborers and other civilians, frantically swarmed west to the fluid American, British, and Canadian lines to avoid capture or worse by the Russians.

The confusion that characterized those final days still in a minor way continues over the exact date of VE Day.

Actually, it was May 8, 1945, although the surrender was signed at Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower's Reims headquarters by German Gen. Albert Jodl at 2:41 a.m., May 7.

The capitulation was to be effective at 11:01 p.m. on May 8. A similar unconditional surrender document was signed on May 8 in Berlin by Field Marshall Wilhelm Keitel in Berlin for the Russians.

In the 11 months between D-Day and VE Day, nearly 5.5 million Allied troops were sent to Europe. Their total casualties were 766,294, of whom 586,628 were Americans and of these 135,576 were killed.

On May 2, the Germans in Italy surrendered to bring an end to the long and bitter struggle up the boot that had gone on for nearly two years.

At war's end, stretching from the Baltic to the Mediterranean, through Austria, Czechoslovakia and Italy, were 69 U.S. divisions in seven U.S. armies, plus the units in one army each fielded by the French and Cana-

When the Shooting Stopped

dians and two by the British, plus air units that included four U.S. Army air forces.

Only remaining pockets unoccupied by Allied forces on May 8 were a few small ones in Germany and larger ones in Austria, Czechoslovakia (Bohemia), Italy and Yugoslavia (Croatia).

In a war of spectacular blows and lightning strikes, one stands out in the war's waning weeks.

That was the linkup of U.S. and Soviet forces on the Elbe on April 25, a stroke of good fortune that may have speeded up the Germans' surrender by several days.

U.S. divisions vied with one another to be first to meet their ally moving slowly and ponderously west since Eisenhower had decided against grabbing the biggest prize of all, Berlin.

Bridgeheads had been established

by six divisions east of the Elbe and Mulde, which Ike had ordered would be the final line of American advance. Orders came from Eisenhower on April 21 to withdraw Mulde bridgeheads and to restrict patrol activity to five miles beyond the river's east bank. The Russians said they were planning an advance and Ike wanted no American-Russian clashes. Countless reports of sightings of Russians came in and excitement mounted.

On April 23 a battalion of the 69th Division's 273rd Infantry crossed the Mulde to accept the surrender of Wurzen by the mayor, swamped with hundreds of freed American prisoners, surrendering Germans and panicked civilians.

Annoyed by the long wait for the Russians, who, it turned out, had not learned that the Mulde not the Elbe, was the demarcation line, the 273rd's

Gen. Emil F. Reinhardt, 69th Division commander, is rowed across the Elbe to make the American-Russian linkup official.





This sign was erected to mark the site where Americans and Russians met on the Elbe River.

commander, Col. Charles M. Adams sent a three-man patrol under Lt. Albert L. Kotzebue on April 24 to try to make contact. He went several miles to the east and halted for the night. Adams sent out another patrol the next day under Maj. Frederick W. Craig. Meanwhile, Lt. William D. Robertson, of the I and R platoon, who had been processing prisoners at Wurzen all night, took three men eastward in search of released Americans or Germans who wanted to surrender.

When Kotzebue's patrol spotted a Russian soldier on horseback at Leckwitz, 17 miles south of Torgau at 11:30 a.m., a Russian-speaking American asked for directions to the Elbe. The Russian told him a Polish slave-laborer could help and rode off.

Guided by the Pole, Kotzebue drove to the Elbe near Strehla, rowed across the river and at 12:30 p.m. met a Russian officer who suggested he go a few hundred yards north. Kotzebue then radioed Col. Adams who passed the word to the division commander, Gen. Emil F. Reinhardt, fuming because the five-mile limit had been violated. Unfortunately, Kotzebue gave the wrong coordinates for his position.

On his way to Leckwitz, Craig met a Russian horse cavalry unit moving south toward Dresden at 4:45 p.m. and then joined Kotzebue on the Elbe's east bank where the two armies' representatives were drinking vodka toasts.

Robertson, who was not seeking the Russians, met some former British prisoners who told him wounded American prisoners were in Torgau further northeast on the Elbe. In Torgau, he found Allied prisoners, but only two Americans, one a Navy ensign, who joined him.

"We heard shooting," recalls Paul Staub, of Levittown, N.Y., a member of Robertson's patrol. "It came from the Russians' side of the Elbe. So to identify ourselves, we got a bed sheet and broke into a drugstore to find red and blue paint to make a flag.

"Lt. Robertson climbed up into a tower in a castle and waved the flag. No one shot at it, and we could see the Russians on the other side. But when one of us showed himself, the Russians began shooting again."

Staub says the Russians sent up a flare after awhile—green instead of the prescribed red—and Robertson went back to get a Russian who had been with the other prisoners as an interpreter. The Russian called to his countrymen that Americans had arrived.

Staub saw Russians gathering on

This picture was taken at the actual linkup of Americans and Russians on a destroyed bridge spanning the Elbe at Torgau. Robertson and Staub climbed over the twisted girders to meet the Russians who made their way from the other side.

the other side. The patrol rushed to a destroyed bridge spanning the Elbe and climbed over the twisted girders as a Russian did the same from his side. This meeting took place at 4 p.m., April 25.

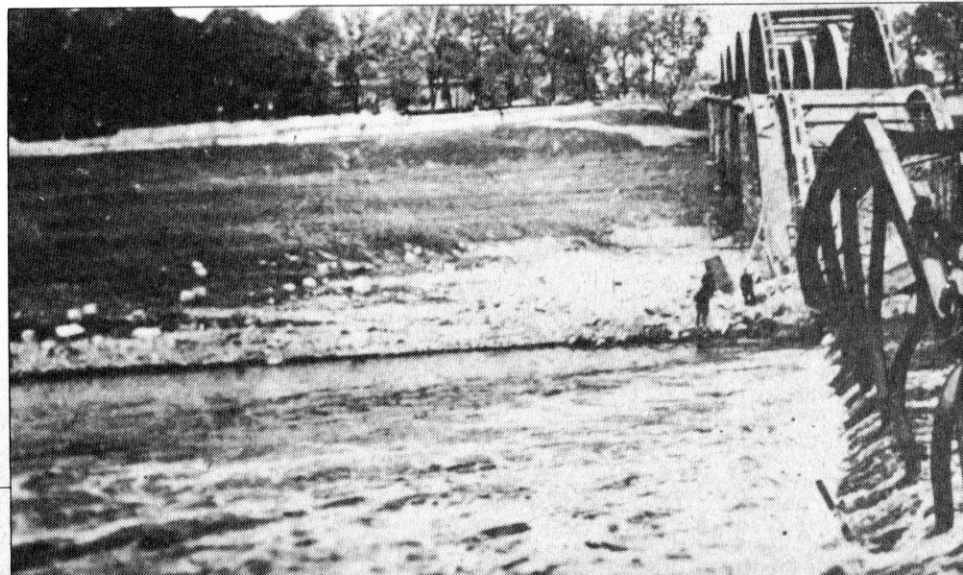
"We went back to the battalion command post in Wurzen with some of the Russians and the Americans locked us up overnight until they could confirm our story," Staub relates. "Ike was called and he said, 'Great,' and we went back to arrange the official meeting."

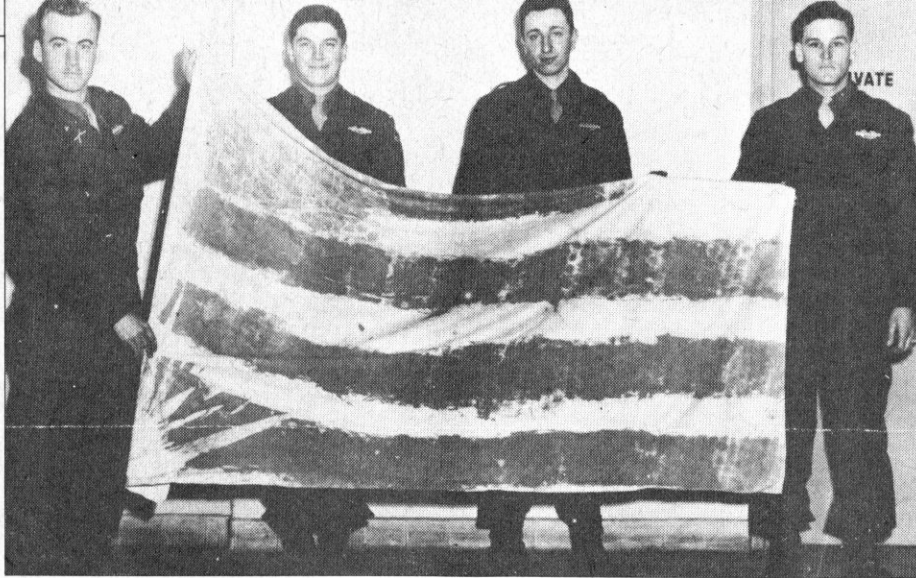
Torgau was chosen as the formal linkup site since no one had heard from Kotzebue. So the next day, April 26, Reinhardt met his opposite number at Torgau.

"We found the Russians pretty much like ourselves," Staub says. "Our main concern when we reached Torgau was for the Russians on the other side of the Elbe to realize that we were Americans and that they could stop shooting.

"It was only later that we came to understand what we had accomplished. We saw the Russian soldier was no different from us. They were just as glad to see us as we were to see them. Just as we showed pictures of our families, they, too, pulled pictures from their pockets. Just as we were weary of the war, so were they, perhaps even more so."

With what was left of Nazi Germany cut in two, Allied military leaders turned their attention to what the Nazis declared would be the National Redoubt where they would hold out in the Alpine fastness of Austria and





This makeshift U.S. Flag was contrived by these men so the Russians on the Elbe at Torgau would know they were Americans. Holding it are Lt. William D. Robertson, Sgt. James J. McDonnell, Cpl. Paul Staub and Cpl. Frank B. Huff.

southern Germany.

Spurred on by these boasts, 11 American divisions, part of the 3rd and 7th Armies, moved on to Austria and the V Corps was transferred from the 1st Army to the 3rd to go into Czechoslovakia. The four divisions of V Corps plus two from the XII Corps brought the total American units in Czechoslovakia to six. Eisenhower, however, decided against entering Prague and held his units to the Budweis-Pilsen-Karlsbad line in an exchange with the Russians for an eastward advance along the Baltic.

Troops of the 2nd Infantry Division, one of the six to cross into Czechoslovakia, along with the 16th and 4th Armored Divisions and 1st, 97th and 90th Infantry Divisions, got a shock in those early May days.

When the 1st Battalion of the division's 9th Infantry reached St.

Katherine in the Sudetenland, the riflemen dug in, as they had since Normandy, and the heavy machine guns were emplaced. Back at the command post on a paved road near the base of a small hill, the men were told not to be surprised the next day, May 4, when survivors of the German 11th Panzer Division came through with their weapons and wearing white armbands. Sure enough, in the rainy morning the road was filled with horsedrawn wagons, a few armored vehicles and men on motorcycles. When their charcoal-fueled trucks slowly made their way up the hill, the column would stop. Some Germans came into the CP to avoid the rain and drink real coffee. They thought they were surrendering to the 97th Division to fight the Russians on the American side. Whatever, it was over for them.

The Americans passed through the Sudetenland, with its sullen, defeated German population into the Czech areas of Western Bohemia to be greeted as liberators. They gorged themselves on pastries, as villagers lined the roads. Many older Czechs wore the French-style horizon-blue uniforms and floppy berets of the WWI Czechoslovak Legion. Maypoles had been erected to add to the welcome, but the troops and the liberated people were disappointed when they were prevented from going to Prague, as Gen. George S. Patton, Jr., wanted to do. An uprising had broken out there against the Germans as Czechs tried to liberate their capital themselves. The only help they received was from anti-Stalinist Gen. Andrei Vlasov's division of former Russian prisoners who had joined the Germans. Later they all were turned over

to the Soviets after surrendering to the U.S. 7th Army. On May 9, the Soviet army entered Prague as "liberators." Even so, elements of the 2nd Division and 16th Armored took Pilsen.

At war's end the 2nd's 9th Infantry was in Rokycany, an hour from Prague, and the 4th Armored was not far, either, at Pisek.

All through Germany, American and other Allied troops liberated Nazi concentration camps like Dachau near Munich. Harold M. Cullum of Kansas City, Mo., a 42nd Division artilleryman, recalls that the dead bodies there "were stacked like cordwood." One bone-thin survivor, wearing the blue and white striped pajama-like uniform, threw himself on the ground in gratitude when Cullum gave him a little food.

Rejoicing over the end of the war in Europe was tempered by the fact that Japan still had to be defeated and many of the troops in Europe would be needed in Asia. But, as Commander Donald A. Esposito, of the Department of California, who was in Brooklyn Navy Hospital on VE Day, recalls: "It seemed like all the lights in the entire world were illuminated. The Empire State Building, all office buildings, street lights and the Brooklyn Bridge were lit up in the once blacked-out city and there was celebrating in the streets. One knew the war in Europe had finally ended."

For Commander Joseph F. Martin, of the Department of California, who was an Army Air Corps officer at Cazes Air Base near Casablanca, announcement of Germany's surrender came as no surprise because rumors of it had been rife for days.

"We shot a few signal flares, had a few drinks and Casablanca was put off limits for a week," he recalls. "The Italian prisoners were happy, but there was a little rioting in the German prisoners' camp. We were told the Air Transport Mission would continue, so none of us would be going home.

"We all realized the war in the Pacific was still going on and was closer to us than before. VE Day was just one step nearer to 'world peace,' but we still are one or two steps away from world peace."



NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

Veterans of Foreign Wars
of the United States

1984-85 Series

1. Announcement is made of the retirement of J.A. (Al) Cheatham, Post 869, Kansas, from the office of Quartermaster General, effective March 31, 1985.

2. Announcement is made of the election by mail ballot vote of the National Council of Administration and subsequent of Herbert W. Irwin, Post 5789, Missouri, to fill the vacancy in the office of Quartermaster General.

3. Installing officers will see that the provisions of Section 217 of the National Constitution and By-Laws and Manual of Procedure are properly carried out and that all officers are members in good standing and qualified to hold office prior to installing Post officers for the current year. Proof of eligibility must be on file with the Adjutant prior to installation.

The installing officer shall ascertain that a Post Election Report form has been mailed to Department and National Headquarters prior to the installation. If a Post Election Report has not been forwarded to Department and National Headquarters, the installing officer shall complete and forward such report at the time he installs the Post Officers. Attention is directed to see that the proper amount of dues the Post charges is reported to Department and National Headquarters.

4. TERM OF OFFICE - COUNTY COUNCIL AND DISTRICT OFFICERS: County Council and District officers shall be given the officers' obligation before the adjournment of the meeting at which they are elected but shall not assume the duties of their office until the Department Commander is installed following the Department Convention. Installing officers shall ensure that a County Council/District Election Report is prepared and forwarded to Department and National Headquarters at the time of installation. Proof of eligibility must be on file with the Adjutant prior to installation.

5. Section 223 of the National Constitution and By-Laws and Manual of Procedure provides that each Post shall make the necessary arrangements for proper observance of Loyalty Day and Memorial Day. Officers should see that suitable grave markers, wreaths and United States Flags are placed on the graves of deceased veterans.

6. Proposed amendments to the National By-Laws must be in proper form and must be approved by the Department Convention. Such proposals should be specific and definite as to the section, line or paragraph that is to be amended, with exact wordings as to additions and deletions. Approved by-law amendments adopted by the Department Convention must be received by the Adjutant General not later than July 5, 1985, in order to meet the requirements of Section 1301, National By-Laws.

General Orders No. 8

7. Resolutions for consideration of the 86th National Convention must first be approved by the Department Convention. At the close of the Department Convention, the Department Adjutant will transmit a copy of each approved resolution to the Adjutant General. Resolutions should bear title and number for identification purposes.

8. Post Commanders are reminded that each Post must register one or more delegates to the VFW National Convention (Section 222, National Constitution and By-Laws). Advance registration for the National Convention is six dollars (\$6.00) per delegate and should be mailed to Veterans of Foreign Wars 86th National Convention, The Hyatt Regency Dallas At Reunion, 300 Reunion Boulevard, Dallas, Texas 75207. Registration at the Convention will be eight dollars (\$8.00).

9. Request for hotel room reservations for the VFW 86th National Convention should be made through respective Department Headquarters.

10. The names and locations of the following Posts have been changed in accordance with Section 206 and 208 of the National By-Laws: Ulster County Memorial Post 686, Rosendale, N.Y. to Joseph C. Hassett Memorial Post 686, High Falls, N.Y., and Cape Lisburne Post 9114, Cape Lisburne, Alaska, to Iditarod Post 9114, McGrath, Alaska.

11. Certificates of Charter evidencing consolidation have been issued to the following Posts: Post No. 5100 and Post No. 6320 have consolidated as Post No. 6320, Duluth, Minn.; Post No. 534 and Post No. 7747 have consolidated as Post No. 534, Joplin, Mo.; Post No. 647 and Post No. 8977 have consolidated as Post No. 647, Danville, Va.

12. Charters for the following Posts have been authorized: Post No. 2262, Empire, Mich.; Post No. 2393, Dresden, Maine; Post No. 2795, Winfield Park, N.J.; Post No. 3775, West Branch, Mich.; Post No. 3899, Gurnee, Ill.; Post No. 4304, Rufus, Ore.; Post No. 4392, Tybee Island, Ga.; Post No. 5703, Philadelphia, Pa.; Post No. 5705, Springfield, Pa.; Post No. 5774, Lenoir City, Tenn.; Post No. 5934, Newberry, S.C.; Post No. 6100, Beverly, Ohio; Post No. 7016, Plainville, Mass.; Post No. 7024, Syracuse, N.Y.; Post No. 7500, Lexington, N.C.; Post No. 7915, Elkhorn, Neb.; Post No. 8321, Bolivar, N.Y.; Post No. 8337, Ellison Bay, Wis.; Post No. 9603, Denver, Colo.; Post No. 9722, Ashland City, Tenn.; Post No. 9807, Goldthwaite, Texas; Post No. 9848, Gladewater, Texas; Post No. 9952, Eldersburg, Md.

By Command of
BILLY RAY CAMERON
Commander-in-Chief

OFFICIAL:
Howard E. Vander Clute, Jr.
Adjutant General

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Spearheaded by a member of **Post 2470**, Ottawa, Ill., Otha Frank Foley, who is also Illinois Department drug abuse chairman, the city's \$37,000 fundraising drive for veterans' memorial came to fruition with the dedication of the memorial on Veterans Day. Foley was chairman of the association that obtained contributions for the memorial from more than 830 residents of the community and businesses. Ground for the memorial in Washington Square, site of a Lincoln-Douglas debate, was donated by the city.

Philip St. John, a member of **Post 9625**, Coon Rapids, Minn., would like to know how many Posts sing the "Rose of No Man's Land" on Memorial Day. He says each year 25 high school students join in singing this WWI favorite on Memorial Day.

William N. McCormack, a member of **Post 6386**, Ingleside, Texas, writes that the Post is erecting a memorial to POW/MIAs on its grounds. The project is expected to be completed by July 20. Plans call for it to bear the words "Lest We Forget" surmounted by an eagle.

Vince Guadagnino, of the **Monroe County, N.Y., Council** reports that early in March 38 Council members visited the VFW National Home in Eaton Rapids, Mich., through the auspices of Anthony Ferrarese, New York Department National Home Chairman. "It was a rewarding experience," writes Guadagnino. A Post in Lansing, Mich., put a car at his disposal to enable him to make a series of slides of Home scenes, which he has given to the Council in Rochester. In addition, Guadagnino contributed an article to the Greece Post, of Pittsford, N.Y., dealing with the Home and the visit.

Raymond H. Swantek, a Life Member of **Post 14000** in Washington, D.C., has organized Friend as a tax-exempt public trust at L'Enfant Plaza, P.O. Box 23490, in Washington to raise funds for the return of the remains of nine Navy aircrewmembers lost near Vancouver, B.C., when their P2V-2 patrol plane crashed into the side of a mountain in a remote part of Vancouver Island on Nov. 4, 1948. One of the nine was



With his back to the camera, Commander-in-Chief Billy Ray Cameron chats with ROTC Cadet Maj. Steve Thomas, of the Griffin, Ga., High School Marching Rifles.

Swentek's brother, Lt. Edward T. Swentek. Navy representatives have told Congress the cost of recovering all the remains would be \$250 million, but Swentek says a bush pilot has offered to do it for \$26,000.

Frank and Ruth Savala, both members **Post 4991**, Warwick, Va., have formed Citizens Against Military Injustice, with 35 chapters and 3,000 members angered over the Feres Doctrine specifically. The VFW opposition to the Feres Doctrine was voiced at the 85th National Convention in Resolution 616. Feres Doctrine prevents members of the Armed Forces from suing the United States government for improper medical

treatment during peacetime.

Victoria, Texas, now has two sets of "Jaws of Life" rescue tools, thanks to **Post 4146**, which donated the money for the second set to the Fire Department. A Post fundraiser last October netted \$5,202 for the set, but it was less than the \$12,000 needed. The check was presented to Fire Chief Henry Juenke by Post Commander Alvin Laza on Dec. 8. When Laza was told more would be needed for the second set, he pledged the Post would make a strong effort to raise the additional amount. Then last February the Post was able to present Juenke with the new "Jaws of Life." ■

Department Commanders-of-the-Month

March



DIV. I

Glen A. Rohr (4)
Ohio



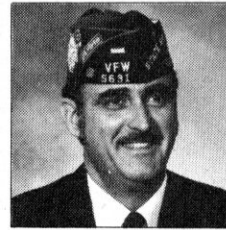
DIV. II

Dino Costantini (2)
Michigan



DIV. III

Edwin H. Shuman (2)
Florida



DIV. IV

Ronald P. Green
North Carolina



DIV. V

George E. McCracken (4)
Virginia



DIV. VI

Arthur W. Triplett, Sr.
(2)
Mississippi



DIV. VII

Ernest D. Kyzer
Arkansas



DIV. VIII

Arthur Streed (6)
North Dakota



DIV. IX

Robert Smith (7)
Alaska



DIV. X

Edward Stewart (5)
Hawaii

(Parenthetical figures indicate number of times Commander has won this honor.)

National Aides-de-Camp

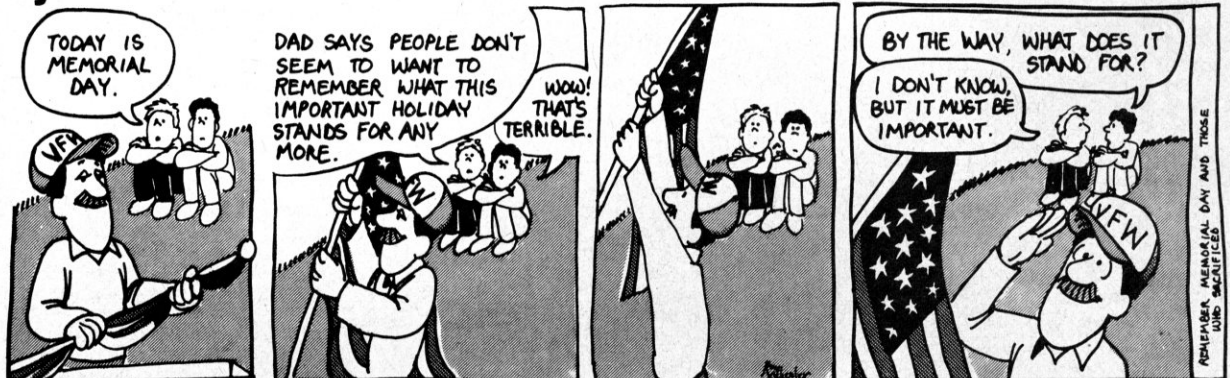
The following VFW members have distinguished themselves by winning appointments as National Aides-de-Camp, Recruiting Class, during the month of March 1985. To be eligible for this award, a member must collect the dues of at least 50 new or reinstated members.

James F. Root, Sr., Post 3246, Mountain Home, Ariz.; George Waldron, Post 6180, Port Richey, Fla.; Arthur Eastman, Post 4256, Madeira Beach, Fla.; Robert L. Culley, Post 1154, Lafayette, Ind.; James H. Faulkner, Post 6590, Cookstown, N.J.; Jimmy V. Brown, Post

10124, Las Cruces, N.M.; O.D. Travis, Post 1957, Hickory, N.C.; Ted Will, Post 1326, Bismarck, N.D.; Don N. Hancock, Post 9972, Sierra Vista, Ariz.; Lyle Daken, Post 9241, Georgetown, Calif.; Charles Hohenstein, Post 9619, Morningside, Md.; Max Hetherington, Post 3087, Flint, Mich.; Robert Joost, Post 8063, Lafayette, Calif.; Joseph R. Sandor, Post 10132, Hobe Sound, Fla.; N.G. Gladfelter, Post 2667, Newman, Ga.; Harry J. Tabor, Post 2605, Carbondale, Ill.; Herman J. Droege, Post 2184, Mehlville, Mo.; Nicholas D. Cavallaro, Post 524, Corning, N.Y., and Arthur K. Banks, Post

3466, Charleston, W. Va.; William G. Chitty, Post 1590, Daytona Beach, Fla.; Bruce E. Hudson, Post 1650, Topeka, Kans.; George R. Lefebvre, Post 662, Lowell, Mass.; Richard K. Coram, Post 8220, Belton, Mo.; Ronald D. Hook, Post 3477, Athens, Ohio; Merle W. O'Connor, Post 1833, Medford, Ore.; Clyde Kraft, Post 2435, Columbia, Pa. G.F. (Jerry) Kolb, Post 7215, Walnutport, Pa.; Floyd W. Rouser, Post 8861, Hollsopple, Pa.; Carl A. Robinson, Sr., Post 641, Columbia, S.C.; William A. (Bill) Rascoe, Post 4575, Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Marty



District Commanders-of-the-Month

March

DIV. I
District 9
Pennsylvania
Frank A. Jaroszenski

DIV. II
District 21
Florida
Harry E. Burroughs (3)

DIV. III
District 20
Pennsylvania
G. F. (Jerry) Kolb

DIV. IV
District 19
Florida
Roscoe R. Staley (4)

DIV. V
District 20
California
Tom Pearson (4)

DIV. VI
District 2
Maryland
Douglas Powell (4)

DIV. VII
District 3
South Carolina
William H. Chapman (4)

DIV. VIII
District 14
Arkansas
Perry Hickman (7)

(Parenthetical figure indicates number of times Commander has won this honor.)

Post Commanders-of-the-Month

March

DIV. I
Post 1114
Indiana
Orbit Scott (7)

DIV. II
Post 2504
Nebraska
Clifford Miller

DIV. III
Post 6712
Massachusetts
Vincent P. Reed, Jr. (3)

DIV. IV
Post 9223
California
Elbert C. Theisen (4)

DIV. V
Post 4809
Virginia
Walter G. Bryan (6)

DIV. VI
Post 5996
South Carolina
Marion H. Evans

DIV. VII
Post 4667
Virginia
Marshall E. Guy (7)

DIV. VIII
Post 2097
Connecticut
Michael T. Gorman (3)

DIV. IX
Post 6180
Florida
Peter Puentes (4)

DIV. X
Post 2435
Pennsylvania
Clyde Kraft (4)

DIV. XI
Post 647
Virginia
Kenneth S. Yeaman

DIV. XII
Post 10252
Alaska
Vernon L. Jones (6)

DIV. XIII
Post 6480
North Carolina
Bobby G. Canupp (4)

DIV. XIV
Post 8496
North Carolina
Lyle C. Baxley (2)

DIV. XV
Post 7721
Florida
Clarence J. Smuder (5)

DIV. XVI
Post 5483
North Carolina
James C. Rich (3)

DIV. XVII
Post 2873
Ohio
Garry B. Young (2)

DIV. XVIII
Post 4517
Arkansas
Bobby D. Hoggard (5)

DIV. XIX
Post 4638
Alabama
Roosevelt Parker (3)

DIV. XX
Post 10743
Arizona
Joe Cicchinelli (2)

(Parenthetical figure indicates number of times Commander has won this honor.)

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Dues shall be paid annually in advance in accordance with the calendar year. The admission fee and annual dues shall accompany the application. The annual dues of each member includes a year's subscription to *The V.F.W. Magazine*, official organ of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S.

Each applicant, upon election, will be so notified and furnished with an official dues receipt showing membership for the year for which dues have been paid.

Veterans of Foreign Wars
of the United States
National Headquarters
Kansas City, Mo.

OBLIGATION

In the presence of Almighty God, I do, of my own free will and accord, solemnly promise and declare that: I will bear true allegiance to the Government of the United States of America, and I will always be loyal thereto, and will never bear arms, nor in any way use my influence against its Laws or Institutions.

I will comply with the Constitution, By-Laws and Ritual of this Order; and I will always be loyal thereto; that I will never wrong nor defraud this Organization, nor a member thereof, nor permit any wrong to be done to either, if in my power to prevent it. I will never propose for membership any person not eligible according to our Constitution, nor one whom I know to be unworthy.

I will never make known to any one not authorized to receive it, any of the work of this Order. Should my affiliation with the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States cease, in any way, I will consider this pledge as binding outside the Order as though I had remained a member of the same. All this I promise and pledge upon the honor of a true Comrade and a citizen of our great republic.

Signed _____ Applicant

I have investigated the character and campaign medal service of the applicant and hereby endorse him/her as eligible and worthy of membership in the V.F.W.

Signed _____
Date _____ Member of Post No. _____

CERTIFICATION

Admission Fee paid \$ _____ Dues paid \$ _____

Date _____, 19 _____

(See Sec. 104 By-Laws)

The investigating Committee has performed its duties and recommends _____ election _____ rejection.
(Signatures of Committee Below)

Committee Member

Committee Member

Committee Member

Applicant Elected _____ 19 _____

Applicant Obligated _____ 19 _____

Recorded as of Mar. 6, 1985

Address _____

Order of Parade

Standings are based on per capita tax transmittals received at National Headquarters through March 31, 1985.

NATIONAL AVERAGE — 97.79%

1	ALASKA	106.13
2	Virginia	101.52
3	Arkansas	101.31
4	North Carolina	101.25
5	Arizona	101.02
6	Hawaii	100.86
7	Florida	100.47
8	Ohio	100.44
9	Mississippi	100.30
10	Nebraska	100.27
11	Delaware	100.20
12	Maryland	100.04
13	South Dakota	99.90
14	North Dakota	99.73
15	Maine	99.52

16	Michigan	99.327
17	South Carolina	99.326
18	Vermont	99.10
19	Indiana	98.69
20	Louisiana	98.67
21	Minnesota	98.50
22	Washington	98.12
23	Pennsylvania	98.06
24	Colorado	97.98
25	Iowa	97.94
26	Missouri	97.88
27	Oregon	97.79
28	Rhode Island	97.73
29	Wisconsin	97.60
30	New Jersey	97.47
31	Kansas	97.20
32	California	97.03
33	New York	96.88
34	New Mexico	96.84
35	Illinois	96.67

36	Georgia	96.53
37	Montana	96.43
38	Connecticut	96.32
39	Kentucky	96.09
40	Massachusetts	96.04
41	Texas	95.82
42	New Hampshire	95.67
43	West Virginia	95.61
44	Idaho	95.43
45	Alabama	94.352
46	Tennessee	94.348
47	Nevada	92.93
48	Oklahoma	92.70
49	Wyoming	91.80
50	District of Columbia	90.22
51	Pacific Area	88.29
52	Utah	87.41
53	Germany	77.48
LAST	Panama Canal	76.81

Be A Recruiter

Commander-in-Chief Billy Ray Cameron is asking each member to become a recruiter of new or reinstated members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Ask someone you know to become part of the nation's fastest growing veterans' organization, the one that really cares about America's veterans.

VFW success may be measured by the effectiveness of its many programs, but the unmatched 29-year

membership gain can be attributed to the men and women who are engaged in the day-to-day task of recruiting.

Be a recruiter. Use the application on the facing page. We must increase our numbers if the VFW is going to continue to be First...Serving America. ■

MEMBER BENEFITS

VFW's Seal of Approval: What Does It Mean?

Most of you have received mailings informing you of one or more of the VFW's 11 voluntary member benefits available to VFW members in good standing.

These are called "voluntary" because you must elect to use them before they will be of any cost to you.

Three of these benefits cost you nothing: the \$1,000 Personal Accident Insurance Plan; the Prescription Drug and Vitamin Program, and the VFW Travel Services.

The other benefits available to you at economical group rates include three kinds of life insurance, two kinds of accident insurance, three kinds of hospital expense plans and a Discount Merchandise Buying program.

Accompanying each of the benefit plans is a seal. This is VFW's Seal of

Approval. It signifies the opinion of National Headquarters that the program to which the seal is affixed meets VFW requirements for quality, fair pricing and service after the sale.

Two important facts you should know about what the seal means are:

1. Before the VFW Seal of Approval is affixed to any benefit program, a great deal of time and energy is spent by National Headquarters negotiating and investigating the company offering the program, including its history of service and financial standing. In the case of group insurance programs, the benefits and premiums are carefully weighed against many factors, such as need and premium dollar value compared to other programs available. The programs offered are competitive within the insurance industry. The VFW is an unusual market

and programs selected are those most beneficial to the majority of the membership.

2. Many companies offer insurance to veterans. Some of the companies and the insurance they offer are good, but many are not. Some advertising implies they are an official government agency. Others claim to be sponsored by a veterans' group when in fact they are not. Watch for the official VFW Seal of Approval as an assurance of VFW authenticity and value.

VFW National Headquarters retains an administrative fee for managing the programs. This restricted revenue is used to assist financing of Community and Veterans Service Programs. Approximately \$2 million has been paid to the Departments and more than \$100 million in benefits has been paid to enrolled members and their beneficiaries.



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MAIL CALL

Continued from page 13

Stockman Scored

OMB Director David Stockman, with the blessings of President Reagan, says veterans' benefits are not the responsibility of the federal government. Does he think the states sent us off to war? Veterans' benefits are a debt the federal government owes the veterans—the same as it owes banks and foreign investors on the national debt. Cut the coupon clippers 10% instead.—*Paul H. Hosebek, 2500 Florence Ave., Burlington, Iowa 52601.*

REUNIONS

AIR FORCE (Including Army air units prior to 1947)

□ June

60th Trp. Carrier Grp.—5-8, King of Prussia, Pa.—John Diamantakos, 7216 Pine Tree Lane, Fairfield, AL 35064.

78th FG (England) & Svc. Sqdns.—13-16, Louisville—Al Wendt, 811 N Forrest, Arlington Heights, IL 60004.

420th Air Refueling Sqdn.—13-16, Sacramento—Kenyon Iverson, 6216 Kamet Ct., Sacramento, CA 95842.

438th Trp. Carrier Grp. Assn. (WW II)—28-30, Grand Rapids, Mich.—Ronald Worrell, 419 S 4th St., DeKalb, IL 60115.

448th Bomb. Grp. Assn.—13-15, Shreveport, La.—Leroy Engdahl, 1785 Wexford Dr., Vidor, TX 77662.

□ July

5th Sqdn., 52d Ftr. Grp. (WW II)—26-28, Fairborn, Ohio—Joe Myers, RR 1 Box 303, Ramsey, IL 62080.

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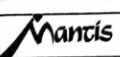
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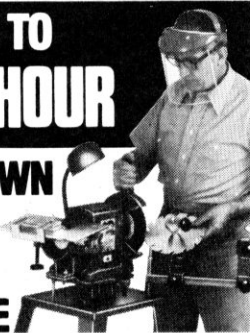
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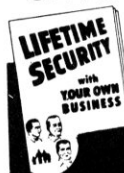
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REUNIONS

The Retired Enlisted Assn.—24-27, Colorado Springs, Colo.—George Carnes, 834 Emory Circle, Colorado Springs, CO 80915.

Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Assn.—4-6, Houston—Larry Clark, POB 35699, Phoenix, AZ 85069.

ARMY

☐ May

4th Inf. Div., Mississippi Chapter—17-19, Biloxi—Dennis Gray, 3303 N Roberson Rd., Texarkana, TX 75501.
11th Armd. Cav. Rgt.—10-11, Ft. Knox, Ky.—Secretary, POB 11, Ft. Knox, KY 40121.

36th Div., 142d Inf., Co. D—18-19, Stephenville, Texas—B.F. McMillin, Star Rt. Box 103A, Stephenville, TX 76101.

752d ROB, Co. C—2-4, Columbus, Ohio—R.C. Trimble, POB 752, Newark, OH 43055.

☐ June

4th Inf. Div., 8th Inf. Rgt., Co. B (WW II)—1, Trenton, N.J.—Al Hofmann, 21 Cannon Dr., Trenton, NJ 08690.

51st Gen. Hosp. (WW II)—6-8, El Paso—Alvin Wood, 2021 Patton, Garland, TX 75041.

66th Sig. Bn., Co. B—28-30, Madison, Wis.—Kurt Brucklacher, 620 W Main St., Platteville, WI 53818.

78th Cav. Recon. Trp.—7-9, Cincinnati—Carl Sumpter, 550 Blackhawk Trail, Loveland, OH 45140.

89th AA Bn. (Washington, D.C., 1942-44)—Jackson, Miss.—Eugene Boge, Rt. 4 Box 270, Charles City, IA 50616.
160th Gen. Hosp.—6-9, Poconos, Pa.—Pete Cavalluzzi, 423 Grand St., Brooklyn, NY 11211.

161st Sta. Hosp.—28-29, Wilmington, Del.—Grace Desmond, 241 S Union St., Wilmington, DE 19805.

209th FA Bn. & 2d Bn., 161st FA Rgt. (WW II)—8-9, Arkansas City, Kans.—Herbert Harding, 814 South A St., Arkansas City, KS 67005.

231st Engrs., Co. C—28-30, Bottineau, N.D.—Gordon Christenson, 2025 7th St. NW, Minot, ND 58701.

551st Engr. Hvy Ponton Bn.—7-9, Williamsport, Pa.—William Brink, POB 123, Picture Rocks, PA 17762.

☐ July

Society of the 1st Div. (WW I, WW II, Vietnam)—31-Aug. 4, Kansas City, Mo.—Arthur Chait, 5 Montgomery Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19118.

2d Inf. Div., 23d Inf. Rgt. (Korean War)—11-14, Covington, La.—Huey Jenkins, 409 E 35th St., Covington, LA 70433.

3d Armd. Div. Assn.—24-27, Chicago—3d AD Assn., POB 776, Lynn, MA 01903.

3d Armd Div., 33d Rgt., Svc. Co. (April 1945); 70th Div., 274th Rgt., Co. F (Jan. 1945) & 90th Div., 359th Rgt., Co. L (Nov. 1944)—William Hothan, 513 Lowell Ave., New Hyde Park, NY 11040.

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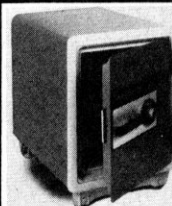
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4th Armd. Div.—18-20, Columbia, S.C.—Samuel Schenker, Sr., 2440 Victoria Dr., Sharon, PA 16146.
4th Inf. Div. Assn.—29-Aug. 3, Cleveland—Elmer Klaus, 2397 Bennett Rd., Madison, OH 44057
6th Inf. Assn.—4, Jefferson Barracks, Mo.—Paul Smiljanich, 4069 Green Park Rd., St. Louis, MO 63125.
8th Armd. Div. Assn.—4-7, Denver—Henry Rothenberg, 180 N LaSalle St., Room 2101, Chicago, IL 60601.
9th & 10th Cav. (Horse)—24-28, Houston, Texas—G.L. Walters, 1650 N Madison, Wichita, KS 67214.
11th Abn. Div.—18-21, Little Rock, Ark.—Paul Brown, 14 Dear Meadows, Canyon Lake, TX 78130.
13th Abn. Div. (WW II)—17-21, Las Vegas—Harry Pharris, 1315 Hoover Lane, Indianapolis, IN 46260.
XIII Corps Assn.—25-28, Flagstaff, Ariz.—John Bitting, 10104 Quinby St., Silver Spring, MD 20901.
14th Armd. Div.—25-28, Louisville—Andrew Tierno, 42 Vestal Ave., Binghamton, NY 18903.
23d Gen. Hosp. & 53d Station Hosp.—12-14, Columbus, Neb.—Charles Sand, Sr., 3321 Breakwater Pl., Columbus, NE 68601.
28th Div., 112th Inf., Co. A—26-27, Corry, Pa.—Frank Delury, RD 2, Corry, PA 16407.
29th Div., 116th Inf., Co. M—11-14, Emporia, Va.—W.D. Rowell, Rt. 1 Box 75, Emporia, VA 23847.
30th CA, HQ—6-7, Richland Center, Wis.—Vivian Johnson, Rt. 4 Box 354, Richland Center, WI 53581.
30th Inf. Div. (WW II)—9-12, Dearborn, Mich.—Saul Solow, 13645 Whipplet Way E, Delray Beach, FL 33445.
31st Div., 155th Inf., Co. E—28, Cleveland, Miss.—George Kelly, POB 369, Cleveland, MS 38732.
31st Div., 155th Inf., Co. H (WW II)—12-13, Corinth, Miss.—George Tucker, 2706 E Tennessee St., Corinth, MS 38834.
34th Inf. Div., Tri State Chap. (WW II)—12-14, Mansfield, Ohio—John Mahl, 37252 Sugar Ridge Rd., North Ridgeville, OH 44039.
34th Div., 2d Bn., 133d Inf. Assn.—20, Mason City, Iowa—Robert Furnish, 938 10th St. NE, Mason City, IA 50401.
35th Div., 137th Rgt., Co. H—21, Ottawa, Kans.—H. Brohammer, R1, Baldwin, KS 66606.
38th Div., 151st Inf., Co. A—26-28, Rockford, Ill.—Francis Alex, 3037 Pecatonica Rd., Pecatonica, IL 61065.
38th Div., 152d Inf., 1st Bn.—26-28, Jasper, Ind.—Alan Stephens, POB 323, New Albany, IN 47150.
39th AAA HQ Grp.—5-7, Lafayette, Ind.—Al Potts, 3879 S Orchard Cr., Lafayette, IN 47905.
40th Div., 223d Rgt. (Korea)—12-14, Nashville—Kenneth Toal, Sr., 3298 Buffalo St., Alexander, NY 14005-0093.
41st Inf. Div. Assn.—3-7, Baltimore—Harry Robshaw, Jr., 4814 66th Ave., Hyattsville, MD 20784.
41st Inf. Div. Bands—17-21, Ocean Shores, Wash.—Don Kock, POB 25706, Seattle, WA 98125.
42d Inf. Div.—10-13, West Palm Beach—Phil Trout, 4121 8th Ave., Temple, PA 19560.
45th Div., 120th Med. Rgt., Co. A—20-21, Cushing, Okla.—Mrs. Fred Cannon, 702 E Main, Cushing, OK 74023.
46th Engrs. (WW II)—2-4, Grand Rapids, Mich.—Art DeGood, 5257 Belding Rd. NE, Rockford, MI 49341.

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REUNIONS

50th Engrs.—19-21, Tipton, Mo.—Lewis Dix, POB 602, Tipton, MO 65081.
53d Inf. Rgt., Co. L—19-21, Kansas City, Mo.—Paul Jeffries, 801 S Williams, Moberly, MO 65270.
62d Armd. FA Bn. Assn.—18-20, El Paso, Texas—W. T. Hester, 901 W Ave. F, Livingston, NM 88260.
88th Cml. Mtr. Bn., Co. C—4-6, Nashville—Fred White, 107 E Main St., Livingston, TN 38570.
92d Med. Gas Treatment Bn. (WW II)—12-13, Cincinnati, Ohio—James DeLong, 31 City Hall St. SE, Massillon, OH 44646.
94th Inf. Div. Assn.—18-20, Pittsburgh—Ross Jordan, 1415 Orion Rd., Batavia, IL 60510.
96th Inf. Div. (WW II)—25-27, Oklahoma City—William Brosch, 17819 S Station Rd., Columbia Station, OH 44028.
99th Inf. Div. Assn.—17-20, Milwaukee—Byron Rousseau, 1400 Dousman St., Green Bay, WI 54303.
100th Cml. Mortar Bn., Co. B (prev. 508th & 637th AAA CA Bn.)—13, Mt. Vernon, Ill.—Jerry Zuzzio, POB 232, Sea Bright, NJ 07760.
101st CA AAA Bn. (WW II)—27, Atlanta—Lee Johnson, 1444 Baracoa Ave., Coral Gables, FL 33146.
103d Div.—17-20, Hot Springs, Ark.—Harvey Ellsworth, 8240 Moreland Rd., Jerome, MI 49249.
120th Sta. Hosp. (WW II)—22-24, Rockport, Mass.—Charles Schenz, 3450 Behymer Rd., Cincinnati, OH 45245.
190th FA Grp. Assn. (WW II)—19-21, Camp Hill, Pa.—Wes Duttering, POB 111, Sunbury, PA 17801.
224th Search Light Bn.—18-20, Louisville—Robert Pierce, RR 1 Box 112, Alexandria, IN 46001.
238th Engr. (C) Bn. Assn.—19-21, York, Pa.—Jesse Miller, 756 Greendale Rd., York, PA 17405.
274th FA Bn.—19-21, Columbus, Ohio—Frank Sacher, 37620 Park Ave., Willoughby, OH 44094.
339th/1179th Army Engrs. (WW II)—25-28, LaCrosse, Wis.—Joseph Hofrichter, 1718 Bird Dog Ct., Loveland, OH 45140.
346th Engr.—24-26, Toledo—Claude Schrieter, 5041 Ancil Rd., Toledo, OH 43615.
365th MPEG Co.—14, Manson, Iowa—Newman Stangeland, Rt. 2 Box 28, Manson, IA 50563.
385th AAA AW Bn. (WW II)—Nashville—Douglass Cochran, 420 Belvedere Rd., Hagerstown, MD 21740.
411th AAA Gun Bn. Assn. (WW II)—18-21, Marietta, Ohio—Clarence Jackson, 3611 Manchester Rd., Akron, OH 44319.
413th Sig. Corps (Avn.) (India, Okinawa, WW II)—W.F. Russell, 1143 Claire Rd., Crownsville, MD 21032.
466th AAA Bn., Northeastern Chap.—13—William Brown, 25 Trask St., Providence, RI 02905.
472d FA Para-Glider Bn.—24-28, Pittsburgh—Julian Panek, 3334 Demmler St., McKeepert, PA 15130.
480th AAA AW Bn. (ETO, WW II)—20-21, Palmerton, Pa.—Samuel George, RD1 Box 154, Palmerton, PA 18071.
478th AAA AW Bn. Assn.—24-28, Allentown, Pa.—Henry Clayman, 3720 Brenbrook Dr., Randallstown, MD 21133.

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552d AAA Bn., Btry. A—26-27, Oklahoma City—Breed Ridge, 7300 Skylark Ct., Oklahoma City, OK 73152.
556th AAA AW Bn. (WW II)—12-13, Amana, Iowa—H.E. Lashhorn, Sr., 3516 Williams Dr., Weirton, WV 26062.
567th AAA AW Bn.—18-20, Wytheville, Va.—Richard Todd, 11839 Julie Dr., Baltimore, OH 43105.
593d, 594th & 595th Ambulance Cos. (WW II)—26-28, Kankakee, Ill.—A.J. Chouinard, 465 W Court St., Kankakee, Ill. 60901.
624th QM Ldry. Co. (1943-46)—19-21, Buffalo—James McPartlan, 156 Huxley Dr., Snyder, NY 14256.
644th TD Bn.—9-12, French Lick, Ind.—Gerald Hoffer, 752 Locke Ct., Nappanee, IN 46550.
713th Flame Thrower Tank Bn.—25-27, Evansville, Ind.—J.R. Gowdy, POB 113, Enfield, IL 62835.
752d FA Bn.—19-20, Crossville, Tenn.—Charles Wuest, Rt. 1 Box 94, Fayetteville, AR.
754th Tank Bn. Assn. (WW II)—5-7, Louisville—Michael Stepien, 122 Churchill St., McKees Rocks, PA 15136.
755th Tank Bn.—12-13, Houston—Robert Moore, 3787 Drake, Houston, TX 77005.
959th Air Base Security Bn.—26-28, Watertown, Wis.—Ivan Quinn, 216 E 4th St., Westfield, WI 53904.
987th AFA Bn. (Korea)—28, Alliance, Ohio—Mrs. Earl Bathol, 5611 Cherokee Dr. NW, North Canton, OH 44720.
3770th Trk. Co. (South Pacific)—12-14, Kingston, N.Y.—Bert Coon, 5 Ludlow Ave., Box 51, Redhook, NY 12571.

COAST GUARD

July

Southeast Asia (1965-73)—28-30, Chicago—Baker Herbert, 6858 Lafayette Rd., Medina, OH 44356.

MARINE CORPS

May

MAG 62 (WW II)—10-11, Cincinnati—LeRoy Seaborn, 3257 Y-K Rd., Cortland, OH 44410.

July

3d Marine Div. Assn.—17-21, San Antonio—Don DeCamara, 36 Oak in the Wood, Daytona Beach, FL 32019.

4th Marine Div., 23d Rgt., Co. F—23-26, Pocono Mtns., Pa.—Ralph Leinoff, 348 B 147th St., Neponsit, NY 11694.

4th Marine Div., 25th Rgt., 1st Bn., Co. A (WW II)—3-6, Seattle—Bruce Benway, 707 S Washington, Fredericksburg, TX 78624.

Air Warning Sqdn. II—Chicago—Joseph Nowak, 5910 Warren Rd., Ann Arbor, MI 48105.

USS Enterprise (CV6), Marine Det.—21-24, Seattle—Louis Michot, POB 52169, Lafayette, LA 70045.

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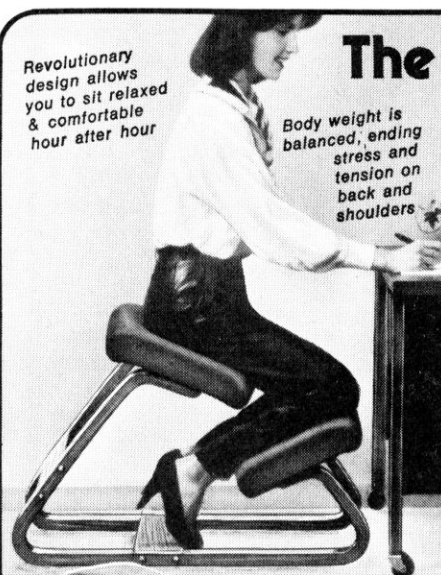
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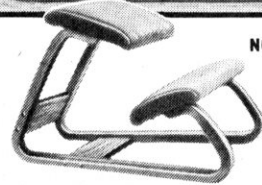
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REUNIONS

NAVY

May

Naval Trng. Sta. (Bainbridge, Md., 1951-53)—25-26, Allentown, Pa.—Edward Kimak, RD 4 Box 215, Northampton, PA 18067.

USS Inch (DE146)—25, New Brunswick, N.J.—Steve Bubernak, 353 N Old Nassau Rd., Jamesburg, NJ 08831.

USS Milwaukee (CL5)—19-23, Las Vegas—Albert Hensley, 29 Roman Ave., Staten Island, NY 10314.

USS PC 470—31-June 2, Berrien Springs, Mich.—Woodrow McGowan, 16 E Floral Ave., Pleasantville, NJ 08232.

June

MCB 9—22, Port Hueneme, Calif.—E.E. Beachboard, 1916 6th Pl., Port Hueneme, CA 93041.

USS Champion (AM314)—10, Seattle—Gilbert Petty, 12052 NE Jefferson Pt. Rd., Kingston, WA 98346.

USS Kennebec (AO36)—Orlando—USS Kennebec Assn., POB 1608, Chiefland, FL 32626.

USS Mississippi (BB41)—7-9, Jackson, Miss.—Hal Aurell, Sr., POB 487, Ackerman, MS 39735.

USS Newport News (CA148)—28-29, Norfolk, Va.—Charles Jacobson, 169 N Arlington Ave., Gloversville, NY 12078.

VS-892—29, Seattle—Don Porter, POB 720, Seattle, WA 98111.

July

31st Spec. NCB—25-27, Santa Monica, Calif.—Roy Jensen, 508 Baker Dr., Cedar Falls, IA 50613.

73d NCB—23-27, Memphis—Cletus Tillie, 2104 Alta Vista, Memphis, TN 38127.

137th & 139th NCBs—12-14, Niagara Falls, N.Y.—Edgar Gunn, 38 S Main St., Sunderland, MA 01375.

302d NCB—18-21, Charleston, S.C.—Frank Craven, 1304 Winchester Dr., Charleston, SC 29407.

Piney Point Naval Torpedo Testing Range (1940-45)—Piney Point, Md.—B.E. Olson, Gen. Del., Piney Point, MD 20674.

SLCU 36, Boat Pool Baker—19-21, Austin—Donald Brown, 1008 Mitchell, Irving, TX 75060.

Tin Can Sailors, Inc.—3-8, San Diego—Tin Can Sailors, Inc., Battleship Cove, Fall River, MA 02721.

UDT/SEAL—19-21, USNAB Little Creek, Va.—Frat. Order of UDT/SEAL, POB 5365, Virginia Beach, VA 23455.

USS Benner (DD807)—12-13, Bethlehem, Pa.—Charles Albert, 1222 8th St., Catasauqua, PA 18032.

USS Calvert (APA32)—26-28, Denver—Jim McFetridge, 2671 S Yarrow, Lakewood, CO 80227.

USS Charles J. Badger (DD657)—3-8, San Diego—Roger Soule, 1933 Limewood Dr., San Jose, CA 95132.

USS Charles Lawrence (DE53/APD37)—20-21—K.R. Finney, POB 1253, Huron, SD 57530.

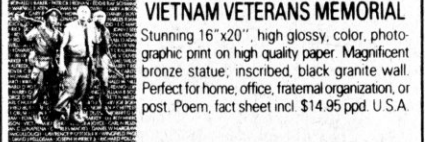
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USS Damato (DDE871)—6-10, Baton Rouge—Roy Elbridge, 1981 Portwin Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70810.

USS Eberle (DD430)—19-21, Williamsburg, Va.—Robert McKenzie, 309 Catawba Ave., Newfield, NJ 08344.

USS Enterprise (CV6)—25-28, Eugene, Ore.—James Branhill, 6653 Briley Dr., Ft. Worth, TX 76118.

USS Hilary P Jones (DD427)—12-13, Kansas City, Mo.—John Hood, POB 8, Treynor, IA 51575.

USS Leary (DD158) & USS Schenck (DD159)—Providence—Al Knapp, 20 Park Ave., Framingham, MA 01701.

USS LSM 24—26-28, Merrillville, Ind.—Paul Wolek, 3260 Shelby St., Hobart, IN 46342.

USS LSMR 515 (1950-55)—15-22, Virginia Beach, Va.—John Marconi, 1063 N Linden, Decatur, IL 62522.

USS LST 279—St. Louis—Alfred Mayer, 1204 PennsylvaniaArlington, MA 02174.

USS LST 529—14, Philadelphia—Kenneth Mackay, 218 S Main St., Pearl River, NY 10965.

USS LST 1011—Manuel Sopas, Jr., 5 Hemlock St., Arlington, MA 02174.

USS LST 1029—Dayton—James Grammer, POB 36, Alto, TX 75925.

USS LST 1016 (WW II)—12-14, Sheridan, Wyo.—Ben Favero, 802 Gladstone St., Sheridan, WY 82801.

USS Maryland (BB46) Veterans Assn.—9-14, New Orleans—Larry Varnell, 4829 Argonne St., Metairie, LA 70001.

USS McGowan (DD678) & USS McDermot (DD677)—12-13, Philadelphia—Don Rogers, 30 Hurd St., Lynn, MA 01905.

USS Rapidan (AO18)—12-14, Charleston, S.C.—R.H. Coggins, 10305 Balls Ford Rd., Manassas, VA 22110.

USS Salinas—11-14, Hot Springs, Ark.—James Schooley, Rt. 1 Box 197A, Mineral Springs, AR 71851.

USS Salisbury Sound (AV13), VP Sqdns. and Flags attached—Reno—Don Wade, 560 Campbell Hill, Marietta, GA 30060.

USS San Saba (APA232)—27, Hot Springs, Ark.—Joe Holmes, 516 National Bldg., Pine Bluff, AR 71601.

USS Shelikof (AVP52)—15-17, Portland, Ore.—J.C. Shepherd, 31342 Signs Dr., Deer Island, OR 97054.

USS Thorn (DD647)—22-26, Bethlehem, Pa.—Kaj Swenson, 2190 Allwood Dr., Bethlehem, PA 18018.

USS Tulagi (CVE72)—David Davis, 714 Harrison Bldg., Indianapolis, IN 47204.

USS Venus (AKA135)—11-14—Charles Kauffman, 6407 N 300 E, West Lafayette, IN 47906.

USS William Seiverling (DE441)—26-28, Youngstown—Joseph Popovich, Sr., 486 5th St., Struthers, OH 44471.

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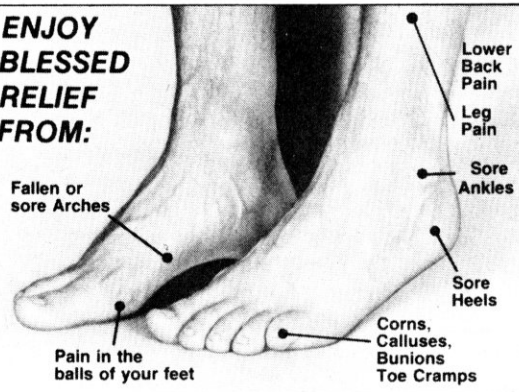
Since 1948, over 3,000,000 people are enjoying blessed relief they never thought possible... thanks to Flexible Featherspring® Foot Supports which are made in West Germany.

How do Feathersprings bring relief? Well, unlike costly special shoes, mass-produced arch preservers, or ready-made, drug store remedies, custom-formed Flexible Feathersprings actually restore and maintain the elastic support your feet had when you were a youth.

No matter how long you've had foot problems—be it 3 months or 30 years—the instant you slip a pair of Feathersprings in your shoes (one pair is all you'll ever need)—you'll be able to stand all day, walk, dance, even jog or run in total comfort.

Feathersprings act as a shock-absorbing, pain-relieving system which structurally realigns your feet. Not only do they restore the

ENJOY BLESSED RELIEF FROM:



natural balance of your feet, they allow your feet to flex normally in all types of shoes. Thanks to Feathersprings, your aching feet get the continuous, moving support which brings that relief.

There's really no risk involved in finding out whether Feathersprings can relieve your foot pain.



We're so certain that Feather-spring Foot Supports will end your foot problems that if you're not completely satisfied... we'll refund your money in full... with no questions asked.

Write us for full information, there's no obligation and no salesman will call. Just fill out and mail the coupon below.

What people say in unsolicited testimonials, about Feathersprings:

"... I have thoroughly enjoyed the comfort Feathersprings have provided me. You would not believe the difference they have made my feet feel—before I had such pain when walking because I have severe callus' on both of my feet."

M.W.R./Richmond, VA

"I want to thank you for refunding to me the full amount of what I ordered. I admire your company for this with no strings or red tape."

G.K.M./Warwick, Rhode Island

"... At the present time I still wear the Feather-springs and indeed they perform well after seven years of use."

G.M.G., Dallas, Texas

©1985 Featherspring International Corp.
712 N. 34th Street, Seattle, Washington 98103

SEND NO MONEY!

FEATHERSPRING INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION
712 N. 34th Street, Dept. V055
Seattle, Washington 98103

YES! I want to learn more about Flexible Feather-spring Foot Supports. Please rush me your free packet. I will watch for a **LARGE PINK ENVELOPE**. I understand that there is no obligation and that no salesman will call.

Print Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

When in Seattle visit the Featherspring building.

Continued from page 24

VFW & Purolator Fight Child Abuse

In its commitment to community service and recognizing the need to protect our country's children, the VFW has joined forces with Purolator Products, Inc., to provide child identification booklets to Posts and Auxiliaries, free of charge, enabling them to conduct identification and fingerprinting programs for children in their communities.

This action would fulfill the mandate of the 85th National Convention's Resolution 319, Protecting Our Country's Children, approved last August in Chicago.

Every year in the United States, hundreds of thousands of children

disappear and thousands fall victim to criminal or sexual exploitation.

Recently there has been a growing outcry of anguish and outrage concerning this problem. This outcry has come from all parts of the country and it will not it cannot be ignored.

Parents, relatives of victims, law enforcement agencies, legislators and concerned citizens are beginning to formulate plans to erase this blight on society.

The eradication of this outrage must be the concern of people from all walks of life, not just those who are suffering from the pain of this terrible tragedy.

If a workable solution is to be found,

it will take the combined efforts of everyone. Legislation, law enforcement and a concerned and aware public is a good beginning.

The child identification booklet provides basic information to parents on what their children should know to avoid becoming victims of child abuse, abduction, or exploitation, and to provide information, a photograph and fingerprints of a child that can be turned over to law enforcement agencies if a child becomes a victim of one of these atrocities.

Information about the programs and what Posts and Auxiliaries can do to participate will soon be mailed to all Posts.

See Advertisement Outside Back Cover

2

Pairs of SLACKS

19⁹⁵

3 for 29.75

4 for 39.50

5 for 49.25

HABAND 265 North 9th Street, Paterson, New Jersey 07530

YES! Rush me.....

Slacks for which I enclose

.....and \$1.95 postage. *Please add \$1.50 per pair for sizes 46-54.

Or Charge: Visa MasterCard

Acct. #.....

Exp. Date:.....

☐ Check here & add \$7.95* for Reversible Leather Belt

Color: BLACK/BROWN

Size: (Even sizes 30 to 54.)

A. (Add \$1 for sizes 46-54)

Color	HOW MANY?	WHAT SIZE?	WHAT COLOR?
TAN			
SLATE BLUE			
PEARL GREY			
BROWN			
BLACK			

Guarantee: I understand that if upon receipt I do not choose to wear the slacks, I may return them within 30 days for a full refund of every penny I paid you.

77G-081

Name.....

Street..... Apt. #.....

City/State..... Zip.....

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STOPS FIRES INSTANTLY!

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THE MODERN FIRE FIGHTER

EFFECTIVE. Stops fires instantly.

SAFE. Not harmful to humans or animals.

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\$14.95

12 OZ. CANNISTER

\$29.95

24 OZ. CANNISTER

With Pistol Grip

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SEMI-AUTOMATIC MACHINE PISTOL

10 ROUND - SIDE MOUNTED CLIP

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This rapid fire 22 Cal "Commando" type machine pistol looks like the famous, hard-hitting weapon so popular with combat attack groups. The side mounted, detachable, ten round clip sprays pellets into the target as fast as you can pull the trigger. Only \$4.95 plus 95¢ for postage and handling. Complete satisfaction guaranteed or your money refunded. NY State Res. add Sales Tax.

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WWII VETERAN

VIETNAM

WWII VETERAN

VIETNAM

Our Commemorative Shirts show we served with pride. 1st quality T-shirts (white, lt. blue, silver w/navy ink) \$9.95 ppd. Hat \$8.50 ppd. Cat. \$2.00 (FREE w/order) Orders received by May 23rd will be shipped first class before Memorial Day. ck/mo/cash to: **Shirt Works, 610 E. Columbia St., Springfield, Ohio 45503. Satisfaction Guaranteed.**

"SATISFACTION GUARANTEED! MAIL TODAY!"

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Bldg. #9, Hanover, PA 17333

Sure, I'll try the world's most comfortable shoes. Please send me:

MEN'S SHOE

prs. Men's Tan Leather	(M242578B)	Size	Width
prs. Men's Black Leather	(M236802B)	Size	Width
prs. Men's Brown Suede	(M242586B)	Size	Width
prs. Men's Sand Suede Leather	(M233361B)	Size	Width

WOMEN'S SHOE

prs. Women's Tan Leather	(M203562B)	Size	Width
prs. Women's Black Leather	(M203687B)	Size	Width
prs. Women's White Leather	(M223693B)	Size	Width
prs. Women's Brown Suede	(M223784B)	Size	Width

for just \$14.88 pr., plus \$2.90 per pr. postage and handling. **SAVE MORE!** Order TWO pair for just \$28.99 plus \$5.00 postage and handling. (Please add \$2.00 for wide width.)

CHARGE IT: ☐ American Express ☐ MasterCard ☐ Diners' Club ☐ VISA

Enclosed is \$..... Acc't #..... Date Exp.

PRINT NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

CITY..... STATE..... ZIP.....

☐ Check here and send 50¢ for a year's subscription to our full-color catalog of fine gifts (Z389965X). Our policy is to process all orders promptly. We charge your credit card only when order is shipped. Delays notified promptly. Shipment guaranteed within 60 days.

H.H.I. Inc., 1985

See Advertisement Inside Front Cover

Resort Club

guayabera

Summer Shirts

2 Shirts for **24⁹⁵** 3 for 37.25

HABAND COMPANY

265 N. 9th Street, Paterson, NJ 07530

Si Señor! Send me.....

Guayabera Shirts for which I enclose \$..... plus \$2.00 for postage and handling.

Or Charge: ☐ VISA ☐ MASTERCARD

#.....

Exp. Date.....

77E-13C

Extra Savings: Take All 4 for \$47.88

13C	COLOR	How Many	What Size
E	GREY		
A	WHITE		
C	TAN		
B	BLUE		

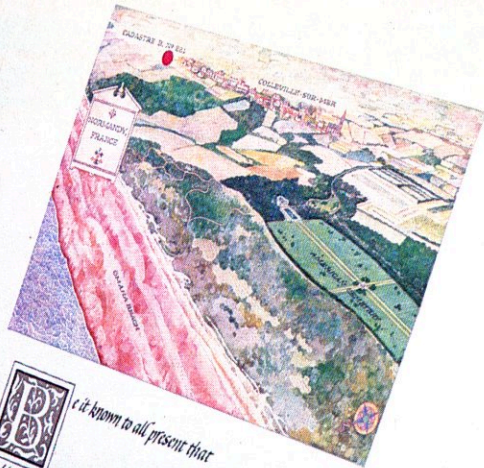
Sizes: S(14-14½); M(15-15½); L(16-16½); XL(17-17½); 2XL (18-18½); 3XL (19-19½) *Add \$1.75 each for 2XL & 3XL

Name.....

Street..... Apt. #.....

City.....

State..... Zip.....



It is known to all present that

and his heirs and assigns is the owner of the rights for a period of ninety-nine years to one square foot of land on the lot officially registered in Colleville sur Mer Cadastre S. No 221 said lot being located in the village of Colleville sur Mer one mile east of the American Cemetery and one half mile south of Omaha Beach in the province of Normandy France and he is entitled to all rights and privileges related thereto.

This piece of land is dedicated to the memory of all those Americans who valiantly fought for the freedom of Europe in the early hours of the sixth day of June nineteen hundred and forty-four and who restored freedom and democracy to all mankind.



The Spirit of America. Alive Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow.

Just over 40 years ago, American troops joined forces with European allies in the fight for freedom at Omaha Beach in Normandy. These valiant men braved near insurmountable odds but won their quest and ultimately liberated Europe. In celebration of this historic victory, Normandy Heritage, Inc., now offers you a special opportunity to share in one of America's greatest moments—an actual part of World War II history.

For a limited time, you may purchase an exquisite, personalized certificate granting yourself or the person of your choice the rights for a period of 99 years to one square foot of land near the American Cemetery in the quiet village of Colleville sur Mer. This handsome 17"x22" document is graced by a full color commissioned print of the area and is embossed

with a superb, original seal created expressly for Normandy Heritage. Perfect for framing, this scroll will surely become an heirloom to a friend or family member who experienced this historic moment first hand, or someone who simply wishes to commemorate continuing American patriotism. The cost? Only \$37. In addition, all those who subscribe will receive an outline of their rights to the land and how this honorary piece of history will be cared for *with no further charge*.

The American spirit. Now is the time to celebrate its past and honor its future, with Normandy Heritage. Space is limited so send today. Orders filled on a first come, first serve basis.

Please send my personalized scroll granting me the rights to one square foot of land near the historic Omaha Beach. I understand that if for any reason I am dissatisfied, my money will be promptly refunded so long as the documents are returned within 30 days in their original condition and packing.

Name to be inscribed _____

For Visa/MasterCard charges only call now toll free 1-800-824-7888, Operator 292. In Alaska or Hawaii phone 1-800-824-7919, Operator 292. Allow 4-6 weeks for delivery. Georgia residents add 3% sales tax.

Normandy Heritage, Inc.

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Please charge \$ _____ to my ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard Expires _____

Cardholder name _____

Card number _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____